

# TIDINGS

WINTER 2023



Pic B. Levenspiel

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## COMMODORE'S REPORT



I am honoured to welcome you to another edition of SSCBC Tidings Magazine, in this, my second year as Commodore and our Club's 75th anniversary. It has been another huge year for the Club, culminating in the reopening of the Clubhouse and, as I write this, the near completion of the project.

We opened the season still in our temporary Clubhouse facilities, with a substantial amount of work still

needed to be done in order to open for summer. Thankfully, with a big push to the finish line, the doors finally opened on Boxing Day, and whilst the Clubhouse was by no means complete, it was wonderful to see our Members back enjoying the facilities, the hospitality and being able to come together once again both on and off the water.

Just as we observed during COVID, it was fantastic to see Members taking a positive approach to what we were able to provide over the summer in terms of facilities and experiences and simply making the best of it.

Watching our fleet of Couta Boats out on the water and then back on the deck at the end of sailing, Members enjoying the new dining room and kids queuing up for fish and chips and ice creams at Couta's was great to see, as was the beach full of Optis. Of course, from here it wasn't all smooth sailing (excuse the pun), and the administration of our builders required us to work through a number of challenges in order

to complete the redevelopment. Thankfully, and as Rollo Wright has explained in his report, we were able to restart building works with minimal delay.

The redevelopment was by no means the only priority this year. You will see as you read Tidings that the calendar of sailing and events was as full as ever, and we continued to focus on our strategies in relation to sailing participation, Next Gen, SheSails and Community Engagement.

KPMG Day returned this year, albeit with a different format with sailing at the Club followed by hospitality at The Continental Hotel. We are already working with KPMG to plan next year's event and look forward to returning to hosting the whole event at the Club on 3 January 2024.

The carsales Portsea Cup Picnic was thoroughly enjoyed by our Couta Boat fleet down at Point Nepean, our Acacia Energy Next Gen Day was a huge success once again, and Lady Skippers Day went to a whole new level thanks to the incredible work of the SheSails taskforce and the support of Pommery.

Over 200 women sailed or were spectators, with 38 Couta Boats participating, which was incredible to see. We warmly welcomed those who had never sailed before and hope to see them back again this coming summer.

We saw our wonderful group of sponsors take an active role this year in events - getting out on the water to watch the racing, hosting hospitality afterwards and providing much coveted merchandise for our sailors.



Smiles all round for the Pommery Lady Skippers race





38°54'44"S 144°55'02"E

# COMMODORE'S REPORT

Our sponsors have been incredible in terms of the commitment they have continued to show our Club over the past couple of years, so it would be remiss to not thank each of them for their support.

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We also returned to hosting regattas and training camps, attracting athletes and coaches from across Australia to our Club. Hosting regattas is a key priority for the Club, and with our new facilities we are looking forward to welcoming more major sailing events in the coming years, starting with the Waszp Worlds in December this year. If you are thinking of volunteering at SSCBC this summer, I encourage you to get involved in the Waszp Worlds. Our volunteers for the Youth Championships, RS:X Worlds and the Moth Worlds in recent years still talk about the rewarding experience; from helping on land with accommodation, registration and where to go, to providing on water support as part of the Race Committee and official duties, there is something for everyone. I'm sure our juniors will get a lot from watching these incredible athletes on our home waters.



Our Off The Beach sailors achieved great success nationally and internationally this year. Three of our sailors competed in the Opti World Championships, as well as competing at the European Championships, Asian



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Championships and African Championships. Impressively, Casey Imeneo also secured a bronze medal in the ILCA 6 at the French Olympic Week. Some incredible achievements by our Members.

Within the Club, our junior sailing program saw a record number of learn to sail participants graduate to Team Sorrento, a fantastic testament to the work of our wonderful coaching team including David White and Jack Lewis. Jack was awarded the Australian Sailing Victorian Coach Of The Year, and was one of only four finalists in the Victorian Sports Awards for Coach of the Year. An extraordinary achievement.

Of course, our full calendar of sailing, hospitality and events would not be possible without a great team and I would like to thank the General Committee, our Sub-committees, management team and staff for all of their hard work over the past 12 months.

As we look to celebrate our 75th anniversary and complete the redevelopment, we are also looking to the future and building on our successes and achievements to date.



TIDINGS2023



*Pommery staff enjoying the Lady Skippers Day*

To that end, we spent time in the winter months listening to Members through a series of focus groups to help inform our five year strategy. Once launched, Members will see that our focus will be growing sailing participation at all levels, strong engagement with our Members, and ensuring excellence in our facilities and operations. In May, we welcomed our new General Manager, Gavin Wall, to the Club and he, together with the General Committee, will be developing and driving initiatives and programs that deliver on these priorities.

I expect that when you read Tidings, the Club redevelopment including all of the spaces, the heritage elements and facilities will be completed and you will be enjoying the new Clubhouse as it was intended. I am extremely excited about the 2023/24 season ahead and the opportunity to provide a fantastic Member experience both on and off the water.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the season that was and I look forward to seeing you at the Club very soon.

**Georgie Silverwood**



*carsales Portsea Cup picnic*

**SSCBC**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL**  
**MEETING**  
**SUNDAY 15**  
**OCTOBER 2023**





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# CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT



As we settle around the new fireplace at the Club, it is a good chance to think about the season past and all that has been achieved on land and water.

The season started early for some who took their Couta Boats to Sydney for the Wattle Cup and Gaffers Day on Sydney Harbour back in October. That was followed by the Division One Nationals on Pittwater. It was an incredible adventure that created firm friendships and memories for all involved.

Opening Day was delayed a few weeks to allow the fleet to return from Sydney and bring the Clubhouse to completion. As the fleet battled for the **Wooden Boat Shop Series**, we saw the deck finally reopen and prepared for the first full season in three years.



Fun at Queenscliff for the Div 2 Nationals



Div 2 Nationals Queenscliff

Summer definitely saw some brilliant sailing although the weather was not always kind. The **carsales Portsea Cup** was raced a few hours early to take advantage of a wind window. **KPMG Day** was too windy to put up sails and turned into a motor cruise. However,

the weather was perfect for the **Pommery Lady Skippers Day** which saw a record 38 boats, 200 sailors and spectators and some very close competition.

Our youth sailors had ample opportunity to shine with the **Acacia Energy Next Gen Regatta** and **carsales Twilights**. We are now seeing younger sailors out every week with the Couta Boat fleet and the stellar performance of Margarita and Jessamine is testament to their skills.

Another highlight of the season was the **Division Two National Titles** held at Queenscliff. A big fleet raced across the waters in a dying breeze and ripping tide. That was followed by a series of local races and dinner at 360Q. Great connections were made with QCYC and QLYC and we are now planning for an annual event on the dark side of the bay.



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Sadly, the weather prevented the return of the **Mud Island Race** but this will definitely be on the calendar next season. One of the priorities of the sailing committee has been to provide a wider variety of races to meet the needs of sailors across all our fleets.

The incredible achievements of our juniors are covered by David in this edition of Tidings. I want to add my congratulations to all the young sailors and parents who pushed themselves even on those tough windy days. And thanks to all our coaching team led so capably by David and Jack.

It was fabulous to see 21 of our boats compete in the **Opti State Titles** in Mornington and 15 families head to the **Opti Nationals** on Pittwater. The Club also hosted a number of home regattas for our dinghy sailors. These include the **Victorian Youth Championships**



Callum, Jorja, Jack, Henri and Augustus

and the **Waszp State Titles**. They provided good practice for the Waszp World Titles that we are hosting this December.

A new project the Club is exploring with the Next Gen committee is the purchase of two small keelboats for match racing and sail training. This

form of racing is taking off around the country and should feed into a stronger dinghy and Couta Boat fleet. It will take significant fundraising so watch out for more info.

Sailing remains the beating heart of the Club. Thanks to our full-time sailing team Ben Fels, David White and Julia Mackinnon. Also, our regular volunteer Race Officers Peter Osbourne, Deb Kwasnicki, John Philpot, Anne Philpot, Kerry McNamara, Anne Heal, Serena Doyle, Bret Levenspiel, Michelle Levenspiel, Bruce Heal, Siobhan Kelley, Les Mengoni, Chris Clapp, Kevin Hall and Maree Deeth.

After three years my time as Club Captain will soon be coming to an end. I have enjoyed every minute of the experience and thank everyone for their support. Your new Club Captain will be announced over the coming months and I look forward to the new energy and ideas they bring.

**Tim Collett**



Div 2 Nationals Queenscliff





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# COUTA BOAT RESULTS

## Wooden Boat Shop Series

Division 1 PH: Margarita C97 LH: Bella C2016  
Division 2 PH: Ruby Anne C145 LH: Morning Star C157

## Couta Boat Nationals

Division 1 PH: Couta-Tah C2005 LH: Bella C2016  
Division 2 PH: Tarni C93 LH: Jessamine C1922

## Acacia Energy Next Gen Regatta

Division 1 PH: Rhapsody C1999 LH: Wagtail C86  
Division 2 PH: Peter Pan C150 LH: Morning Star C157

## Pommery Lady Skippers Race

Division 1 PH: Kate C305 LH: Jocelyn C2014  
Division 2 PH: Jessamine C1922 LH: Jessamine C1922

## carsales Portsea Cup

Division 1 PH: Jocelyn C2014 LH: Jocelyn C2014  
Division 2 PH: Gisella C1789 LH: Jessamine C1922

## TLC Healthcare State Titles

Division 1 PH: Sally C82 LH: Wagtail C86  
Division 2 PH: Lucy C31 LH: Morning Star C157

## Brighton Land Rover Summer Series

Division 1 PH: Rhapsody C1999 LH: Jocelyn C2014  
Division 2 PH: Mercury C22 LH: Aliscia C33

## Steadfast IBG Great Fort Run

Division 1 PH: Zephyr C2006 LH: Sorrento C2011  
Division 2 PH: Duchess C21 LH: Morning Star C157

## The Continental Sorrento Cup

Division 1 PH: Margarita C97 LH: Margarita C97  
Division 2 PH: Morning Star C157 LH: Morning Star C157

## Lacco Cup

Division 2 PH: Joan C99 LH: Jessamine C1922

## Winter Series

Division 1 PH: Margarita C97 LH: Margarita C97  
Division 2 PH: Mercury C22 LH: Jessamine C1922

## Passage Aggregate

Division 1 PH: Matilda C127 LH: Margarita C97  
Division 2 PH: Tarni C93 LH: Morning Star C157

## Club Championship

Division 1 PH: Margarita C97 LH: Margarita C97  
Division 2 PH: Morning Star LH: Morning Star C157

PH = Performance Handicap.

LH = Line Honours.

Full results can be found on the Club website.



carsales Portsea Cup Div 1 winners, Jocelyn



carsales Portsea Cup Div 2 winners, Gisella



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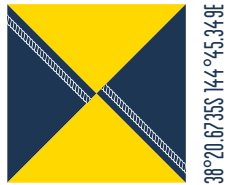




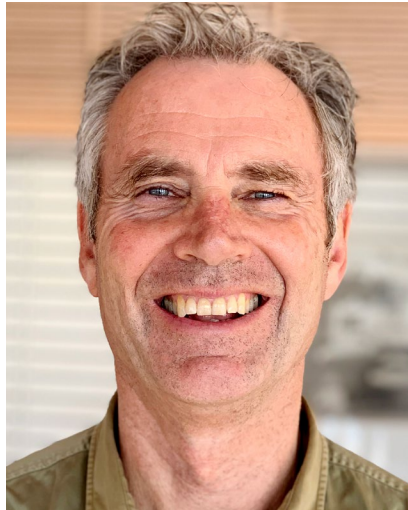
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 We look forward to seeing you.



# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



I am thrilled to present my first report as your General Manager. The first few months here at the Club have been a great experience, filled with numerous opportunities to meet Members and gain a deeper understanding of our Club's essence and the desires of our Members. With the General Committee's support, I have actively engaged in running a number of focus groups

aimed at providing different user groups with a platform to express their thoughts on what is working well and areas where improvements are needed within the Club.

First and foremost, we are a Sailing Club and to that end, we have been working closely with the sailing team, Sailing Committee and the Couta Boat Association to evaluate our current offerings and explore avenues for growth across all sailing classes at the Club. We have been looking closely at our sailing calendar and funding opportunities to identify areas where we can support and enhance our current programs and introduce new people to on-water participation.

Our aim is to increase participation and promote a vibrant sailing culture within our Club.

One area that has been a key focus is our food and beverage offering. We are committed to enhancing the

overall experience of our Members, and to that end, we are diligently working on developing a new and improved food and beverage offering. Our goal is to provide quality food, an exciting selection of wines, and exemplary service across a range of price points. Additionally, we are in the process of crafting new event packages catering to our Members as well as potential corporate customers. I am excited to announce that we will have a soft launch of the new Clubhouse, featuring updated menus on 1 September. Furthermore, starting from 1 September, we will be open on Thursday nights and serve Friday lunches, ensuring our Members have more opportunities to enjoy the Club and our new food and beverage offerings.

Member engagement is of utmost importance to us, and we are dedicated to reinvigorating our volunteer opportunities and







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38°20'67" S 144°55'34" E

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

engagement initiatives. We want our Members to feel valued and connected to the Club. To achieve this, we are organising member-focused events and functions that encourage camaraderie and a sense of belonging. We also invite Members to get involved in volunteering, whether regularly throughout the sailing season or on a more ad hoc basis like at the Waszp Worlds coming up in December. There are lots of ways to be part of this exciting World Championship event and we can't wait to show off our Club and provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our overseas guests. Moreover, we warmly welcome our Members to utilise our lounge space, even during periods when

the food and beverage department is closed. Whether for work or relaxation, the Members' Lounge is open for our Members' enjoyment Tuesdays - Sundays from 1 September.

Our commitment to preserving our Club's heritage is paramount. With the heritage focus group, we are working diligently to ensure that the heritage works are seamlessly integrated into our Club's infrastructure. We want our facilities to meet the evolving needs and desires of our Members. By actively listening to your feedback, we aim to create an environment that embodies the unique spirit of our Sailing Club.

In conclusion, these first few months have been a time of exploration, collaboration, and envisioning the future of our Club. I am grateful for the warm welcome and the many offers of help from dedicated Members and look forward to the exciting times ahead. Together, we will revitalise our Club, providing a haven for sailing enthusiasts and a place that meets the desires and needs of our diverse membership base.

**Gavin Wall**

Julia Mackinnon tending the RIB



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## SAILING MANAGER'S REPORT



The season kicked off with a record 15 Div 1 boats sailing the NSW States and Nationals in early October on Sydney Harbour and Pittwater. A massive effort from everyone involved including volunteers, the CBA and The Wooden Boatshop and Linfox.

We hit the summer peak with an amazing opportunity for our volunteers to conduct the start of the Melbourne to Hobart with 500m start lines either side of Volunteer. Thankfully, we provided very experienced pin boat teams at each end so when, with only minutes to go before the start, a yacht snared the pin around its keel, Scotty was able to pick up the buoy, drive and unwrap it from the keel and relay it with 30 seconds. Clever handling that made it look like we just do it every day.

A core strategy has been to develop the skills of the whole volunteer team on the racecourse, so that we're not overloading the Race Officer and the whole team is more engaged. Many will have noticed the increase in VHF communications from the windward and wing marks, but also from the leeward back to the rest of the team. Likewise, with split fleets

in passage races we were relaying all of the out of sight information to the whole team, improving the race management picture and more critically, the ability to respond to safety incidents from the water and enlightening the tower.

We made some good progress to reduce the most commonly asked question in January, "is there a duck or bosun available" by dressing them with colour coded flags "SSCBC Member's Duck" and "Bosun Tender Service". This worked well and we'll tweak it a bit further when we bring it back in the new season.

Also, a popular hit was the full transition from GPS instruments and calculations to Buoy Zone. We've been fortunate to work collaboratively with the New Zealand developers to add the further features we value, and at the end of the season the new release included the Club fixed marks (yes, we can see the BYS marks as well) and channel marks in the overlay. This will give us a greater ability to pre-set starting times and areas to avoid clashes with our neighbours.

A highlight this season was running the WASZP States, BYS and Couta Boat racing together between the Bombora and The Sands.

We used the Symmetrical Spinnaker Challenge to train up our Race Management for the Youth Championships. Remarkably, we ran three racecourses using Club and Member resources plus some extra support for the juniors from BYS. It was just so much fun working together with them again and we got the Couta Boat racing done as well.

Our volunteer pool is expanding, diversifying and developing higher level skills. In part, this is to undertake the WASZP Games where we are preparing to operate two racecourses simultaneously to optimise the weather opportunities. However, we are also seeking to expand this to involve as many Members as possible. We've made the mark laying process so much easier and this year we hope to see more Members on pin boats and mark boats, supported by staff. Those who were out this season found it to be very rewarding and a lot of fun.

Our Race Management policies and processes are being reviewed for the new season. We found an opportunity to tweak the handicap algorithm to make it work better across different series and the season aggregate. On a couple of occasions, we tested laying the truest first beat we could, then setting the leeward mark after the start to be as true a run as we could get with the benefit of seeing how the boats were sailing on the course. This led to better races with more chances throughout the race, much like we try and create with the passage races having massive fixed beats or laid true beats at the turn around points.

A huge congratulations to the SheSails Taskforce with the pinnacle event being the Lady Skippers Race.

Finally, we'd like to say a huge thank you for the incredible support from the various Committees, task forces, volunteers and sailors, enabling us to go sailing and have lots of fun doing it.

**Ben Fels**



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# THE SAILING CENTRE REPORT



It's fair to say the 2022/23 Season has been like no other. I seem to say that every year now but hopefully we will have smoother waters for the coming seasons. I'd like to thank the OTB parents for their patience as we started off the season working around the building site, lifting boats onto the beach and adapting to other obstacles along the way.

## Juniors

The OTB junior calendar is broken up into five series along with targeted/supported events throughout the year that are spaced roughly one month apart. The aim is to find the balance of Club sailing and also build up sailors' experiences at other clubs, against other sailors.

The first event on the road this

year was in October at Sail Sandy which ended up being quite a light experience but they always put on a great show. Next up, we would normally travel to Sail Country in Albury, but this year being the year it was, the water quality didn't allow event to run. Thankfully, as an alternative, we went to Bendigo and joined in with the VLA's training event, who welcomed us with open arms. It's fantastic to work with Class associations with the shared goal of making our sailors love being on the water and constantly improving.

## Opti National Championships

15 Team Sorrento sailors travelled in numbers to the Nationals up in Sydney which was the same waters that the Couta Boats sailed on earlier in the year. Those who were on the State team were supported through VIODA and worked with Jack Lewis. The rest of our sailors were supported by Peter McCann. A big thank you to David Beck who gave up his rib, despite not being able to make it up there.

The event is so much more than results. The experiences, meeting mates from different states and the lessons you learn really stay with you. From a results point of view, our SSCBC sailors did incredibly well representing Victoria in the Team Racing Competition across four teams. In Vic one, all four sailors were SSCBC sailors (Henri, Callum, Augustus and Jorja) who won the Optimist Team Racing Nationals.

Fleet racing aside, Callum won the overall event, Jorja won first Female and Augustus placed 3rd which had them all qualify for the World titles which took place in July in Spain. We had many other sailors



Jack and Callum Opti National Championships

qualify for other Teams: Lottie for Europeans, Maya for Asians and Ashlea and Atticus for Africans. To the parents who travelled with your kids up to Sydney, thank you, it is an enormous effort.

## Eunson Cup | VIODA Training Camp | Buxton Cup

Whilst our more advanced sailors were away, we still had programs running at SSCBC. In the Eunson Cup, the Green Fleet had 16 entrants take part in January. We had some great training sessions, and it led into our VIODA Training Camp and the Buxton Cup which really has cemented itself as the fun regatta for juniors at the end of the school holidays.

## State Titles

Next up, we travelled to Schnapper Point and the State Titles that were excellently held at Mornington Yacht Club. For third year in a row, SSCBC had the largest junior fleet at the



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Callum Simmons Opti National Champion





event. Our sailors, right from Green Fleet up, did a fantastic job. Harry Baxter placed 6th, Tom Bonnett 4th, Tyler Deeth 2nd and Fred Cantwell, who got the loudest roar at the prizegiving, won Green Fleet and was also awarded best under 10 year old male. In Intermediate Fleet, Lilly Cantwell was 3rd female and Juliet Sankey was 2nd Female and best under 11 female at the event.

In Open Fleet, in the overall standings, 1st place went to Murray Duthie from WA followed by Augustus Buividas in 2nd and Jorja Mahony 3rd. For the Victorian Championship in the female division, 3rd place went to Maya Cantwell, 2nd to Lottie Griffith and the female State Champion was Jorja Mahony. In the Male division, 3rd place was Miles Levenspiel, 2nd Callum Simmons and 1st place and overall State Champion was Augustus Buividas.

**Victorian Youth Championships**  
Our final lead Junior event was The Victorian Youth Championships which had a Victorian training camp in the lead up and also the Australian Optimist Sailing Team training at SSCBC. We were thrilled

to welcome sailors and coaches from across Australia to our newly opened Clubhouse and utilise the fantastic new spaces and enjoy the sailing in our water off Sorrento.

The overall Club Championship results for Season 2022-23 were:

**Optimist Open Club Championship**

- 1st Miles Levenspiel
- 2nd Callum Simmons
- 3rd Augustus Buividas

**Optimist Intermediate Fleet**

- 1st Lily Cantwell
- 2nd Savannah Deeth
- 3rd Juliet Sankey

**Optimist Monthly Medal**

- 1st Fred Cantwell
- 2nd Tom Bonnett
- 3rd Charlie Kelley

**Youth Sailing**

One of our big goals with our juniors is to get our sailors transitioning to the next boat with great skills and lifelong friendships. The Team Sorrento Youth pathway is made up of ILCAs, 29ers, 420s, Wing foils and Waszps. We try to grow these classes by working with the Class associations and run events and training opportunities for our juniors at the Club. For the upcoming season 23/24 Season, SSCBC will be hosting the Waszp Worlds, 29er State Titles and Optimist State Titles. We are super excited to host these events and work with our sailors to best prepare them.

We have a few youth sailors competing in the ILCA class and we plan to grow the fleet more in the coming season with Junior Club Captain Holly Cantwell transitioning into the ILCA. Holly completed



Staff enjoying some time down time after work

her first ILCA regatta at the Mr Trampoline Midwinters at the Club in June. Aidan Simmons and Riley Cantwell campaigned the ILCA 4s and mainly trained through the VLA training program with top up coaching at SSCBC. Aidan won the Victorian State Titles earlier on in the season and both competed at the Nationals. With a large 55 boat fleet, Riley won the under 16 category and Aidan won the Under 18 category and the overall competition. This is the 3rd National Title Aidan has won in a row! Aidan and Riley are competing in the Youth Worlds in Greece as I write this report.

The Club Championship for ILCA 4 results were:

**Club Championships ILCA 4**

- 1st Aidan Simmons
- 2nd Riley Cantwell
- 3rd Jaime Beck

You might notice on the hardstand there are a few more 29ers which is very pleasing to see. It's great to see the class grow at SSCBC. Junior Club Captain Henri Levenspiel has chosen the 29er as his next challenge and was lucky enough to have some one on one training with Tess Lloyd earlier in the year. Henri teamed up with Mason Mahoney and created a 100% winning record by winning his first event in the boat. I hope in the coming season we will see an active 29er class on Sorrento waters.

Another class Henri has been enjoying is the Waszp. With SSCBC having beautiful flat waters, it makes for an ideal match. If you look at the SSCBC calendar, you'll see we



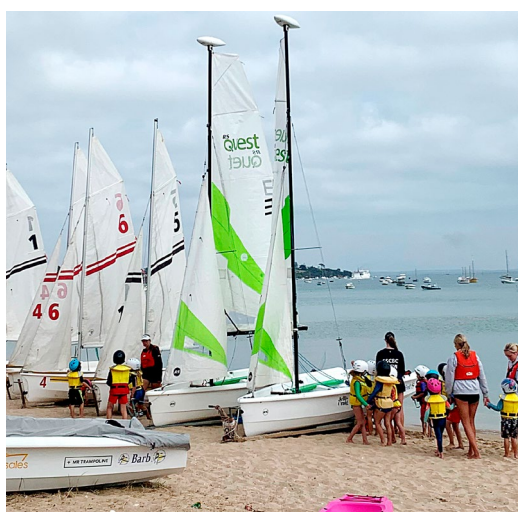
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have active Waszp warm up events from October onwards. If you want to see a boat fly and help us deliver a great regatta, please get in touch, as having volunteers for these marquee events is essential and also a lot of fun. A big thank you to Lachie Vaughan and Jack Lewis who are helping support our SSCBC youth sailors best prepare for the event.

#### Next Gen

Our Next Gen group is led by Grace Cockman who has provided an overview of the season in this edition of Tidings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Sailing Centre staff who are very active in the Next Gen cohort, both participating in the planning and execution of events, but also in the day to day training on the water. A big big thank you for all their efforts. It was great this season to see the staff wanting to get out on the water after coaching and go for a Couta Boat Sail, 29er sail or wing foil. The Div 1 season aggregate for Couta Boats was taken out by a



Jack enjoying a sail after coaching



Savannah, Maree and Graeme - Couta Coaching - three generations

Next Gen crew, sailing Margarita.

#### Couta Coaching

Without a doubt, this season of Couta Coaching has been the best yet, which has been led by our Couta Coaching Team of Phil Bainbridge, Rhys Tucker and Lachie McKenzie, with Howard Critchley guiding the team. Phil Bainbridge won the Bernie Ross award for Club Person of the Year which in my opinion was thoroughly deserved by a person who loves taking people



Phil Bainbridge

out on the water and introducing them to Couta Boat sailing. Thank you Phil and congratulations on this recognition. Also great to see three generations of the one family taking part in Couta Coaching: Savannah, Maree and Graeme (pictured).

#### School Holidays

The September school holidays sailing courses are now open for bookings. The dates are 18-21 September (first week of the school holidays).

The courses on offer are:

- Cara na Mara** (5-7 year olds)
- Stripy Squad** - Level 1, 2 and 3 (7-11 year olds)
- OutThere Sailing** (12-17 year olds)

A perfect opportunity to dust off the cobwebs after the winter break and get the kids back on the water, refreshed and keen for the summer season ahead.

For any queries, please contact David: [training@sscbc.com.au](mailto:training@sscbc.com.au) or Julia: [sailadmin@sscbc.com.au](mailto:sailadmin@sscbc.com.au)

#### Hardstand

You may have noticed we have new dinghy racks on the hardstand, which is part of an effort to maximise our space and protect our Members' boats. It's always a balancing act of having a lot of boats wanting to sail on our beautiful waters so it's a fortunate position to be in. This September we will be launching a hardstand policy which will maximise the use of our Club space. I'd like to thank Bret Levenspiel, Adam Richards and Howard Critchley who have given a lot of time and man hours building the racks and helping to develop the policy.

I am so excited for the new season, fantastic events in the calendar and enjoying our new Clubhouse. Let's make it the best one yet!

**David White**





## CLUBHOUSE REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In March 2022, with much anticipation and excitement, Lloyd Group commenced work on the SSCBC Clubhouse redevelopment. During demolition, latent conditions were discovered related to the structural integrity of the southern embankment retaining wall to the west. Because of this, a re-design of the western end was required which included replacement of the existing retaining wall, relocation of the proposed dry and cool rooms and back of house stairs to the western bar. The old timber sleeper retaining wall was replaced with a concrete wall. Construction works were able to continue at the western end of the building once the amended building permit was issued in June 2022. An already tight program to complete the project between summers had become more challenging. Lloyd Group, working closely with our project managers Nash Management, remained confident that despite these challenges, the Club would be operational for summer 2022/23.

As well as these site specific challenges, we were unfortunately

not immune to industry-wide issues including labour shortages and supply chain challenges which also impacted the building program. The second half of 2022 was a huge amount of work for all involved with plenty of nervous moments for the Infrastructure Sub-committee and General Committee. We were incredibly grateful to Lloyd Group and the Nash Management team for delivering an operational Clubhouse for Members last summer, with around 90% of the base building and 10% of the fitout complete. The offering for Members during this time was somewhat limited and there were some operational challenges. The food and beverage team was given very little time to prepare for the busy summer period and we are incredibly grateful for their remarkable efforts over this time. After the January break, Lloyd Group recommenced on site to complete the remaining works. Unfortunately and unexpectedly, Lloyd Group went into administration at the end of March. The Club's focus quickly shifted from completing the necessary



Unpacking in the new kitchen

Clubhouse works to protecting the Club's legal and financial position contractually and following a legal road-map set out by our construction specialist solicitors, Morey & Agnew. Fortunately, the Clubhouse was already operational and largely complete with the exception of some fit-out trades. We were also fortunate to be able to draw upon the expertise of Jonathan Long, a member of the Infrastructure Sub-committee, and a licensed commercial builder (Long Contracting), who was able to offer immediate assistance. Long Contracting has since been engaged to provide construction management services, with the Club directly entering into contracts with the various sub-contractors to complete the outstanding works. Jonathan is a multi-generational and long-term Member of the Club, and has not only the necessary experience for the job but also the best interests of the Club and Members at heart. Importantly, Jonathan has worked as a volunteer within the Infrastructure Sub-committee, and therefore



Dining room opened on Boxing Day 2022

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has extensive knowledge of the Clubhouse redevelopment and the vision we share for the project. His firm is well placed to manage the final stages of this project. The pre-existing Lloyd Group site manager, Ben Love, who has been managing the project from the beginning, is now employed by Long Contracting, so with Ben and Jonathan driving the final stage of this project, we are in excellent hands.

Although an unfortunate situation, we believe that we have been able to find some benefits for the Club. By engaging key providers and quality sub-contractors to complete the outstanding works, we will successfully conclude this project with the level of detail that was always expected.

We are fully aware that since re-opening the Clubhouse, our partially completed building was never able to provide the kind of ambiance offered by a fully completed and fitted out Clubhouse. We are confident that once the fit-out is complete, with club trophies, honour boards and memorabilia returned and on display, our Clubhouse will once

again feel like a Members' Club.

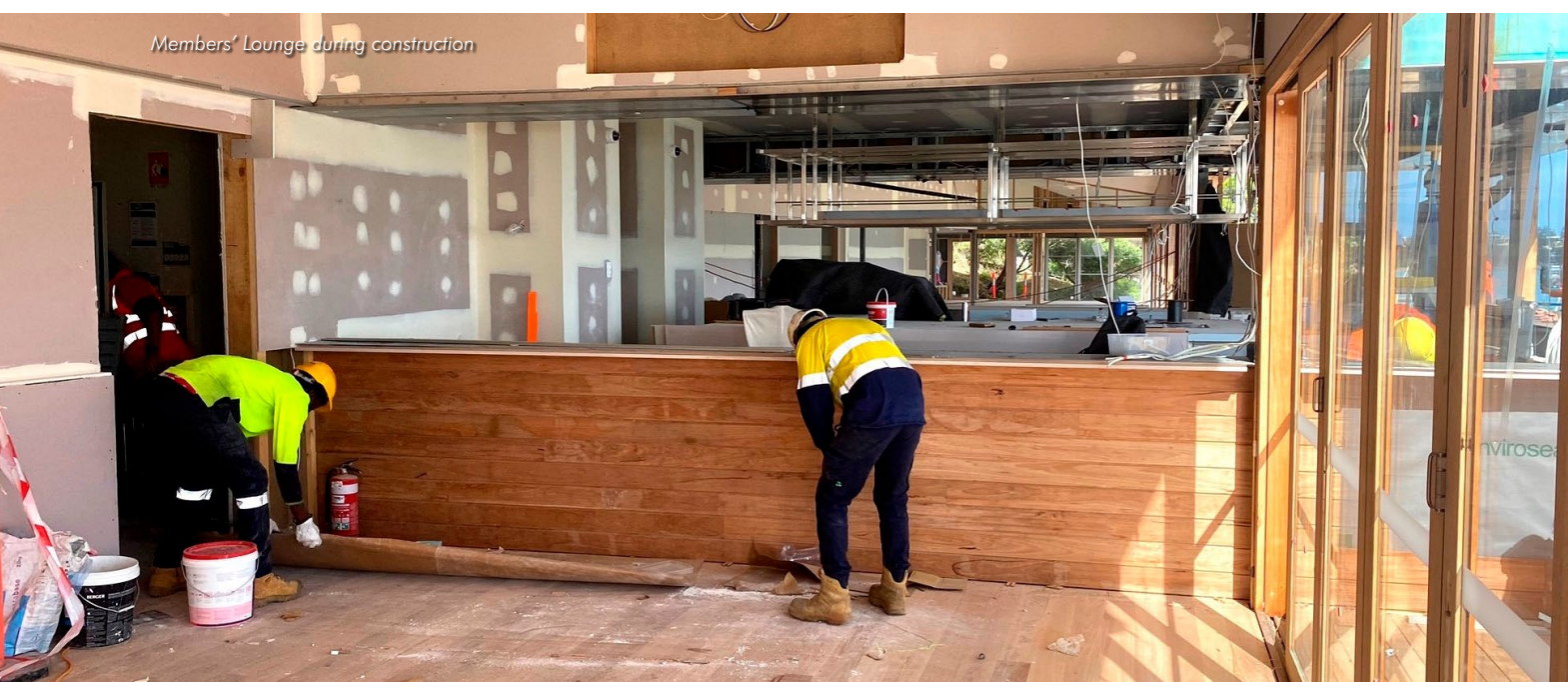
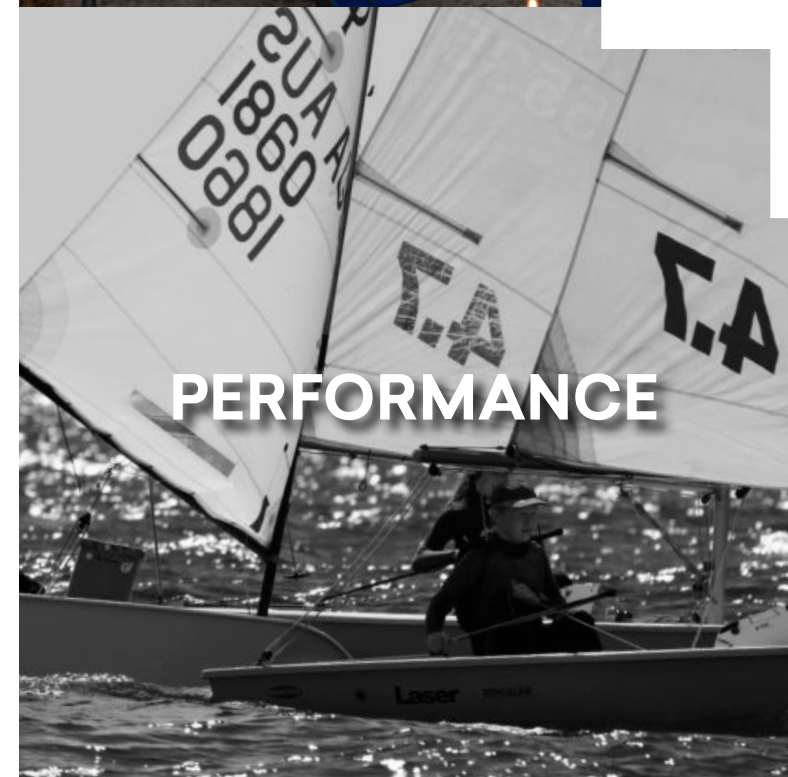
From a cost perspective, the original Lloyd Group contract for the construction works was \$5.95m. Due to increased project scope along the way, latent conditions and the contractor issues, the revised anticipated final construction cost is between \$7.6m-\$7.7m (an increase of \$1.65-\$1.75m). Separately, an additional \$0.8m was budgeted for consultants, furniture, authorities and contingency. These consultant costs remain within the original budget.

Works are now progressing well with final completion anticipated in August. Among the benefits of being operational these past six months, we were able to identify issues as they arose, such as the mechanical ventilation issues with the new downstairs kitchen and sewerage blockage related issues, both of which have now been resolved. We look forward to our Members being able to benefit from the number of improvements this redevelopment has provided, including improved Member and guest access and security, the addition of the Sailing Centre sheds,

improved Lacco Room and western end dining space, and Couta's which offers improved food and beverage options and now has the capabilities to host large regattas. The increased capacity of the deck was welcomed by many over summer allowing for more room for sailing presentations and those enjoying lunch or an afternoon drink. The food and beverage staff benefited from having a much larger kitchen and bar space, making for a happier and more efficient working environment. We have welcomed the recent addition of the fireplace to the Members' Lounge and which will no doubt be enjoyed over the remaining weeks and months of winter weather, all of which underpins the value of being a Member of our wonderful Club.

Your Committee and management team are excited to be reaching completion of the project and returning the Clubhouse to Members in its entirety. I look forward to celebrating this milestone with you all over the coming months.

**Rollo Wright**  
*Infrastructure Sub-committee*



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PRESERVING THE HERITAGE & PROMOTING THE SAILING OF AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE COUTA BOATS

**This is the time of the year for boat maintenance and if you haven't actually started, I am sure you are thinking about it.**

Reflecting on the past season I couldn't help but think that it was the marque events like the Next Gen Day, Lady Skippers Day and Portsea Cup that really stood out. Not only was the participation well improved on previous years, but we are starting to see an increased diversification in our fleet. It is very pleasing to see more younger sailors and women on the water. It was also very pleasing to see the growth in the division 2 fleet. What's that saying? 'From little things, big things grow'?

The CBA (in conjunction with the SSCBC) has conducted some research seeking feedback from the fleet on a number of issues. 108 sailors participated in the study and the results of which are very illuminating and will be fed back to the Sailing Committee for the 2023/24 season. Expect some changes to the program!

Speaking of changes, I have met a couple of times with Gavin Wall, the new General Manager who is now an enthusiastic Couta Boat convert. Welcome aboard Gavin!

It is proposed that the CBA conduct a forum on Sunday the 27th August 2023 at 1100hrs in the Lacco Room to discuss the survey's findings. It is hoped that a number of people will stay on for lunch afterwards.

As I mentioned at the presentation, I would like to again thank the hard work of our Club Captain, Tim Collett, Howard Critchley (Couta Boat Engagement), the Sailing Committee, Ben Fels and all of the volunteers who have assisted over the past season.

We look forward to another combined effort for the 2023/24 season.

Regards,  
**James Mighell**  
President  
CBA

# Scoop



## CBA Committee 2022 | 23

President: James Mighell

Bill Davis, Andrew Skinner, Tim Phillips, Peter Sydes, Rod Martin, Rob Tucker, Colin Mitchell, Sunday Gibson, Howard Critchley, Sally Law

Scoop Editor: Andrew Skinner  
[andrew@skinnerads.com.au](mailto:andrew@skinnerads.com.au)

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PRESERVING THE HERITAGE & PROMOTING THE  
SAILING OF AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE COUTA BOATS

## The Sojourn of *Huia*

**An unaccompanied voyage  
across Bass Strait in an 86 year old  
Couta Boat**

**Sailing, to me, has long signified a  
quest for solitude, exploration, and  
revelation. Over the past two decades, my  
consideration of boats has been primarily  
based on their ability to weather lengthy  
voyages: “How far might I sail?” has been  
my foremost inquiry.**

The legendary Couta Boat has existed on  
my radar for as long as I can remember –  
who can ignore their fine lines, enormous  
traditional rig, downward bending bowsprit  
and renowned seaworthiness? Yet, the  
Couta Boat had also been relegated in my  
mind as a beautiful, traditional open boat  
with a keen racing heritage, culturally  
headquartered on the Mornington Peninsula  
– it was not a boat I might previously  
consider for any kind of voyage.

Although voyaging in open boats is decidedly  
niche, a rich history persists of audacious  
exploits across oceans in vessels devoid of  
any shelter from the elements. Perhaps the  
most famous, is the voyage of the James  
Caird, a small open boat commanded by  
Ernest Shackleton across the Southern Ocean  
in 1916 – not for the sake of adventure, but  
rather for the sake of survival. Or, in more  
modern times (for the adventure!), Don  
McIntyre with his Bounty Boat re-enactment



voyage: Four strangers, 4000 miles, one 26ft  
open boat, limited rations & water, no charts,  
no modern nav gear and no toilet paper.

My enthusiasm for small boats and adventure  
has been an unlikely fixation for half my life. I  
did not grow up anywhere near the water, nor  
with parents who could tell the stern from the  
bow or a sheet from the head. My love of  
boats stemmed purely and entirely from the  
romance of the sea, driven by the possibility  
of remote places and adventure. This drive  
would motivate me to sail singlehanded  
from Europe to Australia in my first boat, a  
Contessa 26 – I would then sail across the  
Pacific a second time aboard *Harmony*, my  
Aries 32. Some years later, in an attempt  
to complete my circumnavigation I began  
aboard *Constellation* in a different manner,  
I set off in a Land Rover to drive back to  
Europe from Tasmania – an adventure foiled  
in South Africa by the pandemic.

I was eventually back at sea in 2021 aboard  
our 42ft pilothouse cutter, as our young  
family ventured north along the eastern  
seaboard of Australia, headed for the Great  
Barrier Reef and beyond – only to be stopped

(again) in our tracks by pandemic. Pregnant  
with our baby boy and fed up with being  
locked down on a boat, we decided to sell our  
good ship and return to Tasmania. Perhaps  
we would try our hand at gardening instead  
of adventure for a while?

Yet, with four months until our son was due  
to be born, I wondered if I could fit just one  
more little adventure in... The parameters  
of the adventure needed to be something  
inside Australia and something relatively  
close to home. With a history of sailing home  
from faraway places, the adventure started  
to evolve and became clear: I decided upon  
the idea of sailing home singlehanded across  
Bass Strait, through the Furneaux Group.  
What would make such an adventure already  
more interesting than it was? I thought  
I should do it in an open boat – perhaps  
something built from timber since I had  
already owned fibreglass & steel boats  
before? I started researching small timber  
boats, and two hours later, I was on the  
phone with Tim Phillips, keenly discussing the  
Couta Boat named *Huia*.

A new world began to open up to me – I  
had very much been siloed inside my own  
universe of cruising boat culture. Tim  
inhabited another world, a world full of  
bronze hardware, gaff rigs, exotic timber  
and tradition. Like many subcultures,  
within sailing there are worlds within worlds:  
Parallel passions under the same principles  
of sail.

Like every idea I have had for an adventure,  
there comes a time when you have to start  
telling people what you're up to next –  
sometimes the idea is well received and  
other times one is laughed at. I kept asking  
Tim about the seaworthiness of *Huia*, and  
the seaworthiness of Couta Boats in general.  
How is the ballast secured? How does a  
Couta Boat handle in a seaway? What is  
the rudder construction like and how many

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pintles secure it to the transom? These were  
perhaps unusual questions for a boat most  
commonly purchased for bay racing.

“Tim,” I said over the phone, “I want to sail  
*Huia* across Bass Strait” – I listened intently,  
attempting to discern a chuckle or any other  
sound that might non-verbally suggest his  
thoughts on such a scheme. “Oh, that would  
be an incredible adventure,” he said, as he  
began to reel off a list of places and the  
most suitable route I ought to take. Quite  
inadvertently, I found myself conversing with  
a man more passionate and knowledgeable  
about the Furneaux Group and Couta Boats



than any other soul on earth. As far as I was  
concerned, the adventure was set in motion.  
Sight unseen, I placed a deposit on *Huia*, and  
nearly a year later, I lay at anchor amidst a  
gale, midway across Bass Strait in the rain,  
rueing my decision and pondering how I  
would much prefer to be with my family and  
now 8-month-old son.

This marked my third attempt to sail home  
aboard *Huia*. I never did manage to sail  
her home before my boy arrived, thwarted  
by relentless south easterlies. I tried once  
more in October, but the weather window  
I had identified crumbled after I had flown

# Scoop

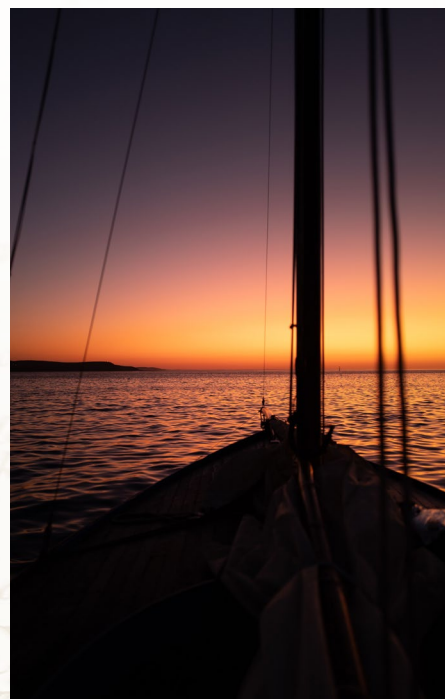


to Melbourne to prepare. Returning home, I  
continued to examine the weather daily, until  
December rolled around – finally, a double  
high pressure system settled over Victoria,  
yielding a week of agreeable, albeit windless,  
days. It wasn't an idyllic northwesterly, but it  
was something. This was my opportunity.

Some ten months prior when I had hoped  
to depart, I'd provisioned *Huia*: 2 weeks  
worth of dry provisions lay on top of the







lead ballast, mostly still in date. My friend Paul, who also had his boat at the Geelong Yacht Club where *Huia* spent winter, had been diligently looking after her in my unexpectedly prolonged absence. I arrived in Geelong, tidied up the boat and set off to Queenscliff the next day.

After a night at the Cruising Yacht Club with Storm Bay laying almost within arms length on her mooring, I set off through the heads. It was one of the first proper summer days of the season – the water was flat with a blue



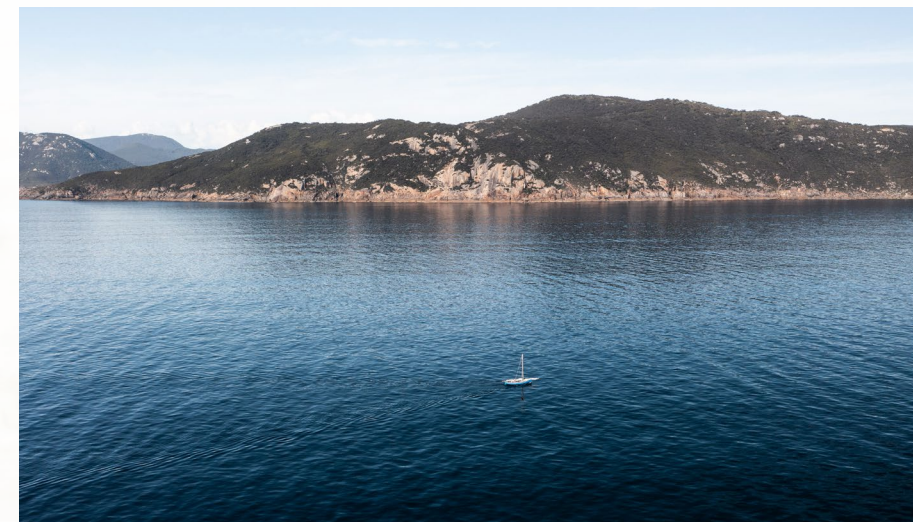
sky and light northerly. Without mishap, we made San Remo in the dark, after a long day mixed with sailing and motoring. The relief of finally exiting Port Phillip was palpable. The adventure was well and truly underway.

I woke at 4.30am for another big day – the nonstop passage to Refuge Cove. With all our canvas up, we powered off the mooring and quickly reached hull speed – a short lived bit of idyllic sailing before a near complete calm, forcing us to motor most of the remaining distance.

With excellent visibility, I mentally broke the trip down: Cape Paterson, Cape Lip Trap, the Glennie Group and finally Wilson's Prom

Lighthouse. This kind of coastal sailing was counting landmarks, not miles. I found the constant proximity to land stressful – unable to properly rest, with the lack of a steady breeze forcing me to rely too much on the little Yanmar.

At this time of the year, we had reached peak daylight. The timing, from a visibility standpoint, was flawless, as we steamed into Refuge Cove at 9:30pm, with ample light to navigate by sight: 17 hours at the helm, warm air ushering thousands of insects seeking their own sanctuary in the cockpit – I lay in bed listening to their scuttling across the boat.



My days at Refuge Cove were spent walking to the top of the nearby hill for PredictWind weather updates and drinking coffee in the cockpit, under a homemade oilskin tarp in the rain. I slept in a swag, tarp overhead, my face carefully positioned to avoid the dripping foredeck.

Deal Island seemed like the true brink of no return on this voyage. A modest window for the crossing appeared two days later, as I left Refuge Cove beneath a full moon at 2.30am, aiming to outpace the coming weather.

Winter Cove appeared supremely sheltered on the charts, a veritable haven from anything originating out of the southwest.

The Hogan Group marked roughly my halfway point when the winds started to gain in strength. *Huia* began to soar, maintaining a steady 7+ knots. Erith Island came into focus as we rounded the top of the Deal group with excessive canvas aloft. Once we found shelter in the lee of the island, I hastily doused the main, as the wind fiercely funnelled through Murray Passage. I have no



doubt in my mind that, had I not taken the main down swiftly, *Huia* would have been knocked flat on her side.

Azure waters, white sand and flat seas – Winter Cove could have been the Caribbean. With the anchor set, I sat down to relax for a moment after a long day. Out of nowhere, *Huia's* rode stretched and creaked, as she danced violently sideways. What on earth!? This would go on for two days, as the windward hills created an almost katabatic effect. I barely slept, doubled the rode, reset the anchor twice and didn't leave the boat





# Scoop



for two days, in fear of being swept out into Bass Strait aboard my tiny inflatable packraft tender.

After days of strong winds, I set off into a horrible chop. Quickly drenched, I sat at the tiller in veritable misery, kept hopeful by the slowly growing landmass of Flinders Island. Picking up a mooring at Port Davies, I went straight to bed after a packet of noodles, a pillow over my head to block the late summers light.

The pub at Lady Barron was a wonderful sight. From the vantage point of the pub deck, I watched the breaking waves and sand bars beyond Vansittart Island. The options for making mainland Tasmania, were Banks Strait, or east about Cape Barren Island. Tim suggested the eastern route, as I looked warily at what appeared to be a narrow passage with surfable waves on one side and a beach on the other. I ate my parmigiana in mild angst.

This next hop was a major milestone: Mainland Tasmania. As Vansittart Island passed, the wind came up stronger than expected, as I found myself on a lee shore. I doggedly pushed on, raised all the canvas, pulled the sheets in tight and left the engine ticking over for an added degree of positive heading. Between Cape Barren Island & Gull Island, I was overjoyed as the northern tip of Tasmania came into view. The relief of seeing this friendly landmass was tangible – up until this point, I had actually felt very alone – there was virtually no other sea traffic thus far and the landscape had felt desolate in its unfamiliarity and my growing solitude – 11 days on passage and counting.

The weather would now allow me to rejoice for too long. After a hellish night on a mooring at Binalong Bay, the bowsprit regularly submerged in the swell, I found myself in 50m of visibility with raindrops the size of my clenched cold fist. I sailed with one hand on the tiller & one hand dangled in front of the wet hot exhaust of the Yanmar – my tiller pilot had given up a hundred miles prior, leaving me to hand steer the entire eastern coast of Tasmania. As the lightning and thunder rolled in, I envisioned myself being morbidly discovered as fried corpse on the cockpit floor. The weather had quickly become the crescendo of this mad idea, as



Cape Bernier passed in a cloud of fog, crests white capping, *Huia* rolling from gunnel to gunnel and my determination to push on, when I really should have sought shelter at Maria Island.

The leads into Marion Bay marked the final challenge. It was dark now. I carefully motored into Dunally, as the weather abated. I was home.

The following day, a friend came out and rowed me ashore for coffee – this wonderful madness was officially over. I looked back at *Huia* from the tender, where she appeared more beautiful and elegant than ever. After 87 years at sea, what was 13 days on passage? I had much to learn.

Special thanks to Tim Phillips, The Wooden Boatshop, Helly Hansen, Geelong Yacht Club, PredictWind, Packraft Australia, Refuelling Solutions (biodiesel supply), Paul Sayers and my beautiful family. For more stories on life, my book, the sea and my work, see [www.nickjaffe.com.au](http://www.nickjaffe.com.au)



# Pommery

## SUMMER DRINKS

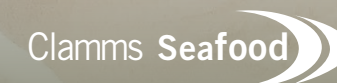
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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Members will be familiar with our Community Engagement Program, but here is a brief update on what we have been up to over recent months.

## Rosebud Secondary College

Each year a class of approximately 30 students from Rosebud Secondary College undertake a Marine Rescue Course in Powerboat Handling and Marine Safety, with the support of SSCBC staff, resources, Club Members, volunteers and facility usage.

This involves 20 x 2 hour sessions where students are taught both theory and on-water rules, regulations and boat handling. The culmination of this course is the passing of the licensing requirements to obtain a Recreational Boat Licence. When the weather was unsuitable for on water activities this year, our staff took the students through some safety aspects on land.

SSCBC is extremely proud of the employment positions held by some of the Rosebud Secondary College students who started with us as trainees and in collaboration with

Hart Marine, have progressed into full time employment or further education in the field. Riley, a key part of our maintenance team, who is pictured now teaching these students, was himself part of this program when he was a student with Rosebud Secondary College.

## The Portsea Camp

This year we have been delighted to again take visitors to The Portsea Camp on a boating experience to visit the seals and dolphins. SSCBC also provides the students, teachers and volunteer Members with a BBQ lunch on the lawn when they return from the water. The Club is supporting an upcoming "Happy Vibes" camp at The Portsea Camp, specifically targeting under privileged girls aged 8-17, with two days on the water as part of their program around teamwork, building resilience, leadership and water safety.

## Melbourne Indigenous Transition School

SSCBC takes great pleasure in hosting a group of approximately 40 students from the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (MITS) each year for an on water

experience, some of whom have never been on a boat before. We have been participating in this program since 2017 and think our staff get just as much out of it as the students from MITS!

## Sorrento Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School

For many years SSCBC has worked with Sorrento Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School, to provide a beach day experience for the Grade 5 and 6 students.

The children experience both on and off water activities and have the opportunity to participate in a sailing lesson and enjoy a boat trip to visit the seals and dolphins.

## Victorian Institute of Sport High Performance Program

The Club has become a training base for young aspiring elite sailors via the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) High Performance Program. This joint venture between the Victorian Government, Yachting Victoria and SSCBC will see training camps and coaching held at the Club.



Melbourne Indigenous Transition School

You may have seen recent photos of the VIS 470 training camp held at the Club over two weeks in July. We feel very lucky to be able to provide this location and our beautiful Club for their training camps.

## SheSails Initiative

The SheSails initiatives not only introduce females to sailing and perhaps exposure to a new physical activity, they provide a social setting for our female Members and guests to get active and involved in on-water and off-water activities. The increased participation in this year's Pommery Lady Skippers Race is a telling sign that our Taskforce is succeeding!



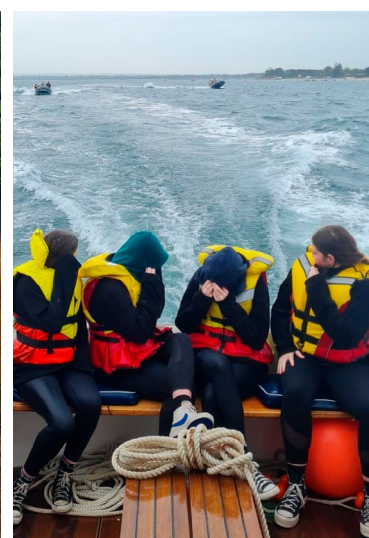
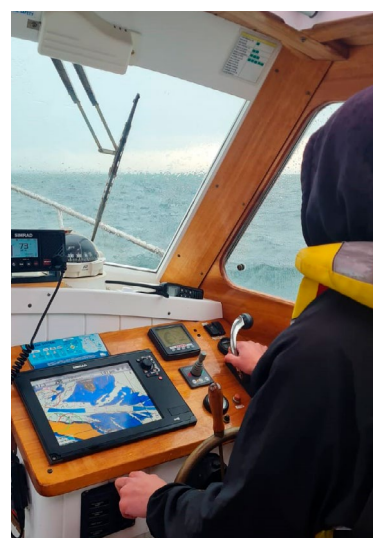
## Mornington Peninsula Foundation

The Club's support of the amazing work carried out by the Mornington Peninsula Foundation is widely known. We are supporting the Foundation again this coming year as the partner for our Ladies Long Lunch as well as the charity chosen for the KPMG Couta Boat Classic. All funds raised on both of these feature days in January will be donated to the Foundation.

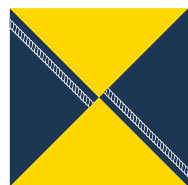
Hollie Hick



Rosebud Secondary College with Riley







36°45'54.74" S 145°07'02.80" E

## NEXT GEN REPORT

In a season filled with sun and sailing, we have seen an increased participation of Next Gen sailors around the Club, out on the water and on committees. Next Gen has attracted many new faces this season and lured back some old ones that grew up sailing at Sorrento.

Kicking off the season with opening night we unveiled the Next Gen sailing calendar and our plans for the season. Dinghy twilight racing in December and Couta Boat and Jubilee twilights in January were a success, with many Next Gen sailors taking the helm.

The spectacular Acacia Energy Next Gen Day saw records broken with 29 boats on the water and over 200 participants. We had to cap the numbers attending this year due to such high demand. The pinnacle of the Next Gen season and one of the most exciting days on the sailing calendar was a resounding success. Perfect winds with the sun in the sky, followed by live music on the deck after sailing, it couldn't have been better.

As a committee we now shift our focus to next season. We strive

to continue the growth of the program, boosting numbers in Next Gen events and general sailing at the Club. We hope to offer more opportunities for people to get involved in the sailing club and grow their sailing skills at all levels. We have already seen an increased participation of Next Gen sailors in aggregate races throughout the season and of young female skippers on Lady Skippers Day.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the other members of the Next Gen Committee. They work hard to organise these events and make sure everything runs smoothly on the day. And of course, I have to thank the sailing club. Without the generous support we receive we would not have been able to grow the Next Gen program into such a success.

I look forward to next season and am excited for all it has to offer.

**Grace Cockman**  
Chair – Next Gen Committee



Margarita C97 with their Next Gen crew taking out the Div 1 Couta Boat season aggregate.



36°45'54.74" S 145°07'02.80" E

## VOLUNTEER REPORT

In a world where our lives are filled with daily routines and personal pursuits, volunteering at SSCBC provides us with an opportunity to give back be a part of something fun and exciting, meet new friends and get a front row seat to exhilarating sailing events.

The Wazp International Games will bring world class sailors to SSCBC in December 2023 and will provide a platform for Members to contribute their skills, passion and time to create a memorable experience for athletes, spectators and fellow volunteers alike. As a volunteer, you will have a front-row seat to witness the awe-inspiring talent and passion of these sailors.

As a volunteer, you will be an integral part of the Wazp Games, working closely with the organising committee to ensure the smooth running of the event. From assisting with athlete registration or on water race committee, to coordinating spectators, assisting with communication and sailor support and accommodation, your

contributions will shape the success of the Games. By immersing yourself in the vibrant atmosphere, you will not only gain invaluable experience but also forge lasting connections with fellow Members and sailors from around the globe.

Who remembers the summer of 2020, when we hosted both the Australian Youth Championships and the RSX World Championships? More than 100 Members volunteered their time and energy to welcome youth sailors from around Australia to our beautiful Club, followed by elite athletes from all over the world to test their skills. Many long-time Members forged new friendships and developed new skills while showcasing their Club. The entire Club became a hive of energy. Volunteers helped with everything from welcoming competitors on the registration desk, on-water race management, spectator viewing, car park and logistics management, friendly regatta office and finally medal presentation and closing ceremony.



We had officials from all over the world, some who had attended multiple Olympic events. Our Club was celebrated not only for our stunning location but also for our welcoming warmth, capable volunteers and vibrant, 'can do' approach.

After several quiet years due to COVID and the Clubhouse redevelopment, we are excited to be hosting the Waszps, again welcoming international sailors and officials to our Club. If you want to be involved in an event that celebrates the spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and excellence, make new friends and represent SSCBC at this world-class event, please let us know.

Keep an eye on eTidings, our weekly email newsletter, for specifics, talk to someone at the front desk the next time you visit, or email me at [volunteers@sscbc.com.au](mailto:volunteers@sscbc.com.au)

**Deb Kwasnicki**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**WORKING BEE**  
**SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER**  
**9AM - 4PM**  
**COFFEE, BBQ LUNCH**  
**& DRINK PROVIDED.**  
Gardening, sorting trophies,  
painting & maintenance  
of the jetty, picnic tables,  
lockers & beach clean up.







38°20'54.74" S 144°05'34.9E

## FOOD & BEVERAGE WHAT'S COMING UP

Exciting times ahead for the food and beverage department at SSCBC. With the completion of the redevelopment, we're excited to warmly welcome our Members, old and new, into our new Clubhouse.

You can expect a more expansive and accessible offering in the dining room. Executive Chef Bernard McCarthy and his team use the freshest local produce to provide an exciting seasonal menu featuring your favourite club classics, in addition to exciting specials that change weekly. You'll also encounter an updated beverage offering with a great selection of local and international wines and beer along with a new cocktail menu.

In the Members' Lounge on Fridays, you'll be able to enjoy Happy Hour (4-6pm) and the new Members'

draw. Bar specials for both food and drink will be on offer all weekend while you're soaking up the sun on the extended Northern Deck or warming yourself by the wood fire in the colder months.

Couta's will return through summer (and some school and public holidays) offering you fresh fish and chips from Clamms Seafood, ice creams, snacks and coffee. With direct access to the beach, there's no better place to enjoy your Club with your family and guests.

For those who are looking to book a special event, we have amazing news! The old Western Deck has evolved into a private event space that can seat up to 70 people (or more for stand-up cocktail events). This space has a terrific indoor/outdoor feel with its own bar and

sound system. Our events team can curate a bespoke menu to ensure that you celebrate in style!

Speaking of events, keep an eye on your inbox for our weekly F&B Newsletter. We will frequently be running Club events like our wildly successful 'Bastille Dinner' and 'Piano Man' dinner and show. We look forward to launching our events calendar with a range of entertainment and food focused events that are guaranteed to delight.

For event enquiries, please contact Ainslee: [events@sscbc.com.au](mailto:events@sscbc.com.au)

For restaurant enquiries, please contact Skipper: [reservations@sscbc.com.au](mailto:reservations@sscbc.com.au)

We can't wait to see you soon at SSCBC.



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HOUR**



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## MEMBER EVENTS COMING UP

**New menu and wine list**  
Launched 1 September 2023.

**Dinner & Show**  
Saturday 16 September 2023  
SOLD OUT

**Opening Day**  
Including return of the  
Commodore's Cocktail Party  
Saturday 28 October.  
Tickets on sale 3 October 2023 at  
9am

**Waszp Worlds**  
Sportsperson luncheon  
December 2023 (date TBC)

**Pommery Summer Drinks**  
Friday 29 December 2023 - Tickets  
on sale 1 November 2023 at 9am.

**Ladies Long Lunch**  
Wednesday 10 January 2024 -  
Tickets on sale 5 December 2023  
at 9am

**Australia Day**  
Friday 26 January 2024  
SSCBC Members only  
Family fun day - live music,  
Andy's Antics returns, face painting,  
food, twilight sailing and more...

Keep an eye on eTidings, socials  
and our website for links to tickets  
via Trybooking.



Andy's Antics make a return Australia Day 2024

**Dinner & Show**

**Tickets \$80pp - Includes two course dinner and show**  
(Drinks at bar prices)

**SOLD OUT**

**Saturday 16 September 2023**





>>> WITH JUNIOR CLUB CAPTAIN, HENRI LEVENSPIEL

1. Name

Henri Levenspiel

2. You campaigned in the Optimist for a few years, did you have a stand out moment?

Placing top ten at 2022 Optimist Nationals. There was a lot of great competition that made it challenging and fun. Also, sailing my Optimist from SSCBC to Martha Cove. My brother Miles and I did it in just over 2 hours and 13 minutes with a 25-30 knot tailwind.



Twins Miles and Henri

3. How many boats have you sailed this season?

Optimist, 29er, WASZP, Windsurfer LT, Pacer, a few tows on a Wingfoil board, and five minutes on a Laser.

4. What was your favourite moment on a boat this season?

Sailing the 29er with Tess Lloyd.



Henri and Tess

5. What was your favourite moment off the water?

Interviewing Tom Trotman in my NutHuggerz at the OTB presentation night and helping build the new Optimist storage rack.

6. What was your most challenging moment this season?

Racing Mark Lloyd and Tonia Grimshaw-Lloyd on the Windsurfer LT. It was also one of my most favourite times on the water this season.

7. Do you have a sailing hero, and if so, who are they and why?

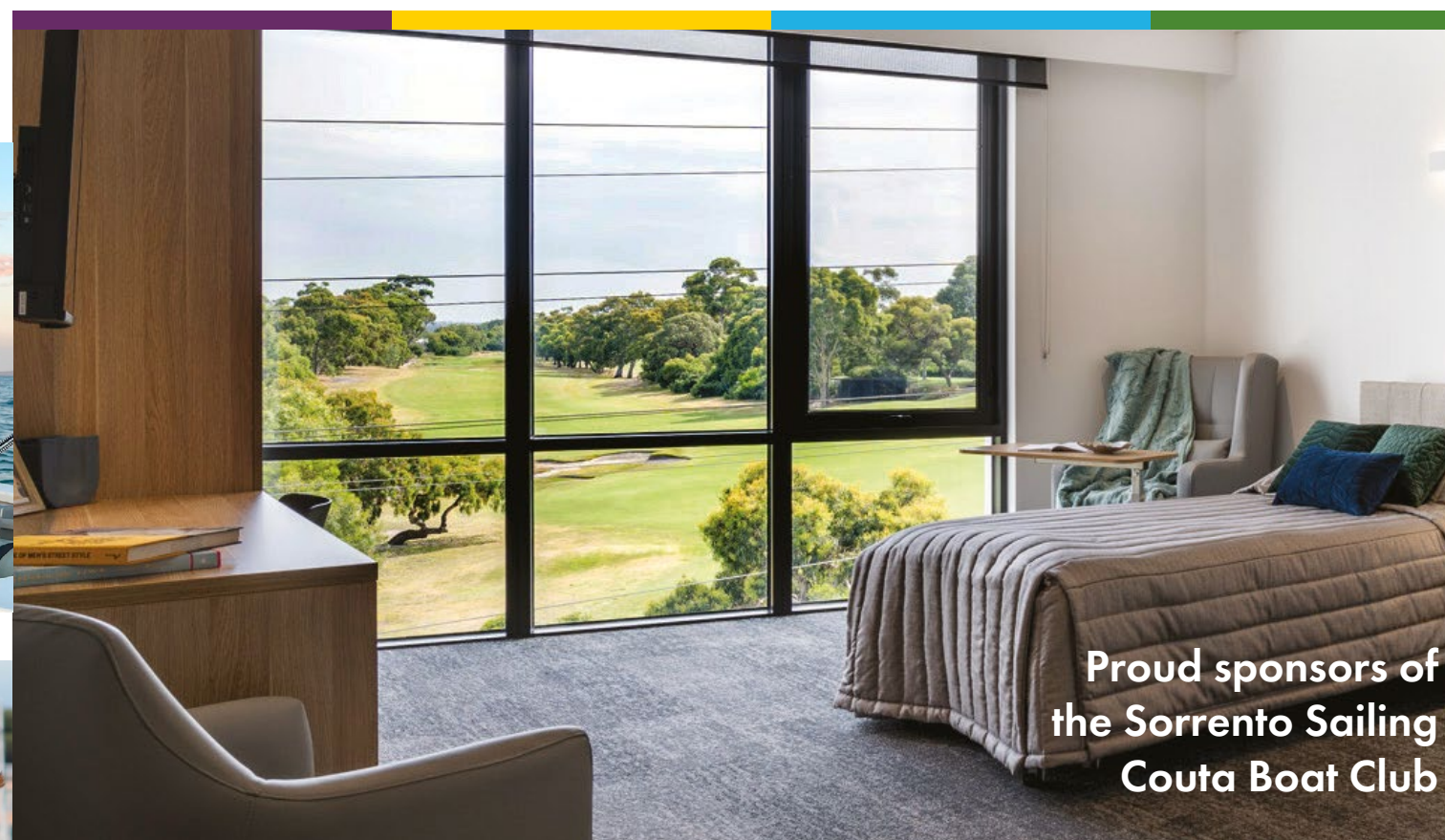
Tess Lloyd. She helped me a lot with mental coaching and being a more confident sailor. A special mention also to Jack Lewis who has looked after me through many regattas.

8. If you were to give any advice to younger SSCBC sailors, what would it be?

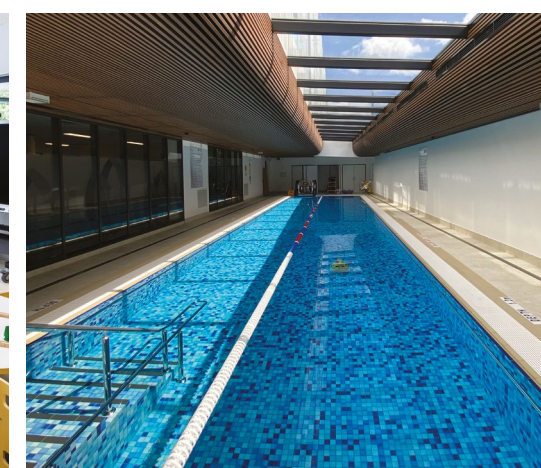
Keep smiling.

9. Aside from Couta Boats, what's next in your sailing plans?

Develop my skills and race 29ers and WASZPs. Also, to coach SSCBC Juniors.



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## GETTING TO KNOW NEW STAFF



### Introducing Gavin Wall General Manager

**Tell us a bit about yourself....  
family, where do you live,  
background etc....**

I am currently living in Blairgowrie after coming back from a year in New Zealand where I have a house in the Marlborough Sounds. I have three children who have all left home and live in Morocco, New Zealand and Melbourne. My career background entails 20 years in hospitality across New Zealand, Australia and Europe and another 15+ years in the sailing industry working in clubs and for the governing body.

### Why SSCBC?

SSCBC has a great history, is very unique and situated in one of the best locations in Australia. With the new facilities it has the ability to become the best club in Australia across both sailing and membership activities. I am very excited to now be part of that journey.

### Sailing background or if not, hobbies?

I started sailing late in my life when I was about 20 years old. I started in keel boats on Wellington Harbour and continued that in Christchurch before moving to Melbourne. In Melbourne I moved into dinghies and 16ft catamarans and then into sports boats (mainly Shaw 650s and VX1's). I am very much a club level

sailor but have competed in many state and national championships. Outside of sailing I am a passionate rugby union supporter.

### Worst habit?

This depends on who you speak to. My wife might have quite a few examples!

### Greatest fear?

Snakes and spiders.

### Biggest regret so far?

Not starting sailing earlier in life.

### If you could live anywhere other than the Mornington Peninsula / Melbourne, where would it be?

The Maldives.

### What are you most looking forward to for season 2023-24 at SSCBC?

Seeing the Clubhouse fully activated and a busy season of sailing.



### Introducing Ainslee Duncan... Events Manager

**Tell us a bit about yourself....  
family, where do you live,  
background etc....**

Closer to 50 than 40, single parent of two amazing (most of the time) young adults: Tom, 20 and Mackenzie, nearly 18. I live in Dromana with my parents and kids all under one roof which can be challenging at times but family is very important to me.

I have had a varied career so far, starting with a Degree in

Sports Science, then owning my own business for nearly 15 years, working with AFL clubs and with Victoria Police. I've worked in the Northern Territory in the court and school system, then more locally back on the Peninsula in aged care, F&B and events.

### Why SSCBC?

I came to SSCBC to take on the events role in this beautiful new Clubhouse and bring events back to the Club after a few disruptive years. I am excited about what's ahead. I have been so welcomed by Members and staff at SSCBC and I am looking forward to continuing to build my role here. I am enjoying working closer to home, enabling me to be more present with my family.

### Sailing background or if not, hobbies?

No sailing background but I am always willing to learn new skills. I enjoy cooking, watching AFL football and hiking – apart from snakes!

### Worst habit?

Over thinking.

### Greatest fear?

Shopping at Chadstone with my daughter.

### Biggest regret so far?

No regrets in life, just lessons.

### If you could live anywhere other than the Mornington Peninsula / Melbourne, where would it be?

Tasmania – East Coast

### What are you most looking forward to for season 2023-24 at SSCBC?

Getting to meet more Members, great events and finally getting out to sail.

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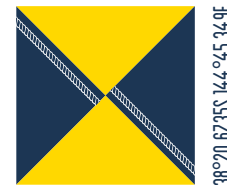




TLC States Sally C82 Div 1 winners



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## SPONSORSHIP REPORT

We were fortunate to welcome four new sponsors to our Club this time last year, leading into summer 2022-23:

Brighton Land Rover  
 TLC Healthcare  
 Mullies  
 Seaward Ferries

**Brighton Land Rover** supported the Couta Boat Summer Series in February 2023 which even though required a resal day, sailors and guests thoroughly enjoyed the Brighton Land Rover t-shirts, engaging with the team from Brighton Land Rover and the beautiful display of vehicles on the lawn. Since then, the team has held various drive day experiences here at the Club, where a group of car enthusiasts have driven in convoy from Brighton to the Club, where they have enjoyed an on water experience followed by a delicious lunch in the dining room. They have also used the Club for a family day for their staff, enjoying a boat trip, beach games



Thank you to Brighton Land Rover for the loan vehicle which we look forward to utilising for events, Members and guests.

and fish and chips on the lawn. We invite other sponsors to organise activities such as these for their team,

or perhaps book in one of our new corporate sailing packages and lunch at the Club.



TLC Healthcare States Sally C82 Div 1 winners

**TLC Healthcare**, led by new SSCBC Member Lou Pascuzzi, sponsored the SSCBC Lavender Hill golf day in November and the Couta Boat Association State Championships over the Christmas / New Year period. We warmly welcome Lou, his family and TLC Healthcare team to the Club, and are inspired by Lou's passion for life, his business and his generosity in supporting the Club and the Couta Boat fleet. We are looking forward to growing this relationship over many years.

**Mullies**, owned by Heath Cameron whom many of you will know, services many of our moorings and assists with your boating needs. Heath and his family have also joined the Club as Members, so say hello to Heath when you next see him on the deck.





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# SPONSORSHIP REPORT



TLC Healthcare States Lucy C31 Div 2 winning crew



**Searoad Ferries**, new to the Club this year, has been instrumental in enabling our Team Sorrento juniors to access our training programs in the shoulder season. For those families who live across the Bay, it is often very difficult for them to attend important training sessions at the

Club, both in terms of the travel time and expense. A key to success in sailing is to have healthy competition and talented sailors who train together, and enabling those who live across the bay to access our training on a regular basis is imperative. Searoad Ferries has generously

provided eight families with a travel pass, enabling them to travel at no cost, even towing their boat trailer, to participate in our training sessions.

We are also fortunate to have many existing sponsors who have been with us for a significant amount of



Pommery Lady Skippers Div 1 Kate C305 winners



Pommery Lady Skippers Sandy C2003

time, very much integrated into life at SSCBC. **KPMG** is approaching its 25th year with the Club for which we are extremely grateful and we look forward to bringing the whole event, sailing and food & beverage, back to SSCBC this January.

We also treasure our longstanding relationships with SSCBC Members Ross and Lou from **Coastal Living**, who have greatly assisted with styling the finishing touches of the Clubhouse. More recently, **The Continental Sorrento** and **Jellis Craig** have joined the SSCBC family, sharing ideas, contacts and opportunities to help one another.

We are lucky to be integrated in the Sorrento community and enjoy being able to assist our neighbours with on water programs, such as The Portsea Camp, Rosebud Secondary College and the local primary schools.

Other sponsors to whom we are thankful include **The Wooden Boatshop**, **carsales**, **Zhik**, **Mr Trampoline**, **Acacia Energy**, **Yabby Lake** and **Steadfast IBG Insurance**.

**Clamms Seafood**, **Pommery**, **CUB** and **Sanpellegrino** have all come on as returning sponsors of the Club, as well as event supporters of Pommery Summer Drinks, which is returning

bigger and better this year. This is the first time we will be hosting this event upstairs in the Clubhouse and we can't wait. *Summertime at SSCBC, cocktails, Pommery, seafood, DJ John Course and our new Clubhouse...*

Tickets will go on sale 1 November so keep an eye out for the booking details in eTidings, on our website and socials.

If you have any sponsorship enquiries, please reach out.

**Hollie Hick**  
Sponsorship & Communications  
Manager



Golf day winning team Paul Kenneally, Andrew Lilley, Geoff Briscoe and Peter Barrie







3820.67355 14445.349E



Our Sailing Team - Ben, Jack, David and Julia



A beautiful Winter sunset

Pic R. Wilson

## >>> SSCBC COMMITTEE FLAG OFFICERS CLUB CONTACTS

**Commodore** Georgie Silverwood

**Vice Commodore** Scott Llewelyn

**Rear Commodore** Mark Klemens

**Treasurer** Shaun Chalmers

**Club Secretary** Nikki Schwarz

**Club Captain** Tim Collett

**Committee** Rollo Wright, Howard Critchley, Deb Kwasnicki, Richard Martin, Adam Richards.

**General Manager** Gavin Wall

**Finance** Deb Hodgson

**Accounts and Membership**  
Karen Harvey

**Sailing** Ben Fels

**Head Coach & Development**  
David White

**House** David Sherlock

**Restaurant** Robert Skipper

**Executive Chef** Bernard McCarthy

**Head Chef** Matt Moore Hunter

**Sponsorship & Communications**  
Hollie Hick

**Sailing Administration** Julia Mackinnon

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3154 Point Nepean Road  
PO Box 138 Sorrento VIC 3943

**Phone** 03 5984 8200

**Email**

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

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