



# The BEACON



Periodic Newsletter

February 2014



### Commodore

The Laser Regatta has come and gone and the Club is beginning to get back to normal, whatever that is. The regatta was a very successful event, helped enormously by the very favourable southwesterly winds that blew each day. Congratulations and thanks to all the members who volunteered their time to make the regatta such a success. Without the volunteers this event would not have happened.

The next big challenge will be the Club Marine Victorian Youth Regatta, which will be held in April. With the Tackers program, the coaching clinics, sprint championships and the regatta, the Club facilities will be in use from 8 April to 13 April inclusive. We will need volunteers to assist with manning the canteen, preparing food for ravenous youth sailors, manning the rescue boats and so on. If you are available during that period and would like to help, we will be glad to hear from you.

Louise Manson resigned as the Administration Officer so that she could help Michael with his powder coating business. She performed the role admirably and we were very sorry to see her go. Hopefully, by the time this Beacon is published, we will have found someone to replace Louise. Margaret Crossland has been keeping an eye on things in the office in the interim.

Sadly, a long time member of the Club, Barry Stapleton, died on New Year's Eve. Barry was a Life Member and had served the Club as Commodore, Club Captain and in the other Flag Officer positions. Barry was not seen around the Club much in the past few years as he devoted all his time to looking after his wife of many years, Joy, whose health had seriously deteriorated. We extend our deepest condolences to the Stapleton family.

The Commodore's dinner was oversubscribed and I apologise to those members who could not get tickets. It was a wonderful night, made even better by the very generous donation of prizes from Ashcombe Maze, The Enchanted Maze, Peninsula Hot Springs and The Pavilion Restaurant. Thanks to everyone who attended and all those who dressed nautically. I am very grateful to the Social Committee members who organized the event and who worked so hard on the day. The meat was carved by Briggsy, Campbell and Margaret, while Jan, Jeremy and the Commodore batted away the flies. Again, my thanks to all who helped on the day to make the event such a success.

*Gordon Crossland, Commodore*



### Discover Sailing Day

A discover sailing day was held at McCrae on Sunday 12th January.

Conditions started out overcast and turned into perfect sailing conditions for those new to sailing with blue sky,

flat seas and a pleasant 10 – 15 knots.

The day was more successful than originally anticipated with the original 6 families/individuals booked expanding in number to 16.

There were a number of members who came down for a sail to enjoy the conditions, which added to the atmosphere around the club.

Three of those who attended were new members, keen to progress their new membership into a sailing experience. Two were keen to enroll in the adult sail-training program in February.

Three former members, who during their childhood and adolescence learned to sail at the club, were considering rejoining to give their children the same opportunity.

The balance, were prospective members who were all provided with new member kits.

There were also a number of leads for both Saturday morning and Sunday morning training programs.

A follow up phone call to the attendees should lead to a high conversion rate of prospects to new members and training program enrollees.

Thanks to all who assisted on the day. Your contributions were much appreciated and a key to the success of the day!

*Mark O'Brien, Treasurer*

### Coming Events

22 February	End of Month Dinner – “Happy Wanderers” with a presentation from Jeff Weir from the Dolphin Research Institute
29 March	End of Month Dinner – Provided by the Monohull Fleet
29-30 March	Contender State Championships and the B14 State Championships
8 -13 April	Club Marine Victorian Youth Championship
3 May	Working Bee
24 May	Presentation Night – NOTE CHANGE of DATE
21 June	AGM





### Training Centre

The Sail training is up and running again for February and early March with some new faces, who have joined for the last 4 sessions. It is great to see the continued enthusiasm.

The Adult Learn to Sail Group started on 2<sup>nd</sup> February with 16 enrolments. The group is lead by Paul Jenkins, Murray O'Brien and an enthusiastic team of Assistant Instructors. Thanks to all for being involved and helping the adults get started on their sailing adventure.

Green Fleet starts on 15 March. Green fleet is open to all novices ready to start or have just begun racing. All participants are fully supported by Training Centre staff to ensure that the fun remains in sailing.

**Guy Bancroft, Principle**



### Talking Tackers

While most of us were trying to find the coldest place to escape the 40 degree heatwave, the club welcomed 31 young sailors to the Tackers program.

The majority completed the Tackers 1 program, with 6 participants in the Tackers 2 –

Tricks and Techniques program.

The Instructor team of Lachlan, Ross, Matilda, Evie, Casey, and Louis were led by Haylee and they did an outstanding job. With the 31 participants split into morning and afternoon sessions the instructors worked together coordinating the two groups as well as boats, parents and of course a beach packed full of holiday makers.

I would like to welcome the new members who have joined the club following the Tackers program. There will be some new faces at Saturday morning Sailing School, which is wonderful.

Our next Tackers program will be a three-day program April 8-10 just prior to the Club Marine Victorian Youth Championships. As with our January program we will run whichever Tackers programs participants want – Tackers 1, 2 or 3. Spaces are limited so please make sure you book early. Go to the website and click on the Tackers logo for more information.

There some exciting things happening with regards to Instructors and Assistant Instructors so keep your eyes out for more information over the coming months.



"Tackers fun.... practicing their knots!!

**Jane Moffat, Tackers Coordinator**



### View From The Deck

You may not be aware, but one of the highlights of my year occurs in the heat of January. After the busyness of the great regattas, after working folk have returned to the big smoke, when all that remains are tourists left sunburning on the beach right where they fell off their jet skis. Just to the right of the mats.

Ahh yes. It's Fruit Duty. At Tackers.

Ahh yes. Many are called but few are chosen.

And every January I curse the fact that I don't have a job in the school holidays, so I drag my sweaty limbs and my soggy watermelon up to the Club kitchen.

And every January I am greeted with the smiles and enthusiasm of the young instructors who don their bright red Tackers t-shirts and their absurdly daggy wide-brimmed hats (no offence to mature wide-brim hat wearers).

And I am soooo impressed. What a bunch of kids.

They spent five days toiling in 40+ degree temperatures, patiently repeating the same thing over and over and over to a bunch of seven to twelve year olds who think our instructors are the greatest.

How lucky we are.

And on Thursday I witnessed something even more impressive:

At 42 degrees and 9.00 am, eight young sailors, sixteen and under, volunteered their time for EIGHT HOURS to make our "Sailing for Schools" program a success.

Under the effective stewardship of Stephen Berryman – "HEY HAMO GET YOUR BUM OVER HERE" – those kids sailed a large group of Girl Guides AROUND IN CIRCLES ALL DAY in about MINUS 15 KNOTS. Do you have any idea how painful that is for a teenage boy? Or a teenage girl?

I am so proud of our youth. They willingly volunteer their time on a regular basis and are reliable. And they even tidy up after themselves.

So next time you see one of them (the male variety, usually stuffing face on meat-pie and sinking fanta; the female variety, usually discussing quantum physics), say 'thanks'. They are the livelihood of our club. They are the reason you can kick back at home or in an air-conditioned office slugging gin-slings and taking ice-baths. No need to be down at the club besieged by a bunch of non-sailing Girl Guides. The McCrae youth have it all in hand. Those young ones are out making your club look good. Tell them, "Thanks, and well done". They truly deserve it.

**Kate Chapman**

### *A couple of spontaneous, unsolicited comments:*

*To the whole training team at McCrae.*

*I would just like to say - thank you.*

*My boys had the most wonderful week and learnt so much. We have all been very impressed with the program and would love to book in for the Tackers 3, when it is scheduled.*

*I would also like to speak to someone about joining the club this season and continuing on with his sailing.*

*Thank you again and congratulations on delivering such a fabulous course.*

and

*Last week my son Thomas participated in the Tackers 1 course at McCrae yacht club. He had a fantastic time!*

*He is very keen to continue with learning to sail so I was wondering if he is able to come to the Saturday morning sailing school held in February.*

*The website says that you must be a member. We are not members but my father is a member of the McCrae yacht club and has been for 40 years so I wondered if this would be ok? His name is Darrell Simpson.*

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**Reminder to House Officers and Shore Officers:**

When you are collecting the bins at the end of the day, the blue recycling bins SHOULD NOT BE EMPTIED into the hoppers or else the contents will not be recycled. Also the blue recycling bins are very heavy when full of bottles and trying to empty them into the hoppers is not without injury risk. The blue bins should be simply left next to the hoppers.

During regattas the Club arranges for the bins and the hoppers to be emptied daily, especially if it is a large regatta. This may mean that the recycling bins will not be ready for placing around the Club until later in the morning, after they have been emptied.



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**Ode To A Jet-Ski Person**

was written by Michael Leunig and comes from *Poems 1972-2002*, published by Viking.

*Jet-ski person, selfish fink,  
May your silly jet-ski sink,  
May you hit a pile of rocks,  
Oh Hoonish, summer, coastal pox.  
Noisy, smoking, dickhead fool  
On your loathsome leisure tool,  
Give us all a jolly lark  
And sink beside a hungry shark.  
Scream as in its fangs you go,  
Your last attention-seeking show,  
While on the beach we all join in  
With 'Three cheers for the dorsal fin!'*

**Paul Jenkins**



**2014 Australian Laser Championship**

The Victorian Laser Association would like to express its thanks to all the members of McCrae Yacht Club who helped to make the 2014 Laser Australian Championship such a successful event.

All the feedback I have had from competitors both local and interstate has been positive. A common theme was that it was a pleasure to sail from a real off the beach yacht club and that the members went out of their way to be helpful and make the sailors and supporters welcome.

I know the Queenslanders and the WA team were most grateful to have use of the Club facilities prior to the regatta for boat storage and training.

Steve Berryman managed the preparations and I know he had a lot of help from members in organizing the yard so that the operation went as smoothly as possible. The first two days prior, when everyone is arriving, was a critical time to set the tone. The arrival team sorted out all the issues and kept everyone happy.

A lot of food was prepared over the regatta both for competitors & volunteers and I heard many favourable comments about the quality and cost. It was a huge effort and very much appreciated. I also had a compliment from one of the interstates about how they appreciated the change rooms & toilets being cleaned every day and maintained at a high standard.

Launching and retrieving the powerboats was a big job and the efforts of the tractor drivers and those preparing and maintaining the boats was appreciated.

On the water and in the tower the club volunteers performed magnificently. Thank you.

My role during this regatta was to represent the VLA and the Laser class. However I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud I was to be a member of McCrae Yacht Club.

**John d'Helin, President**  
Victorian Laser Association



**JONES | ROAD**

WINES



Santa visited and young and the young at heart had a great time.



**Vale Barry Stapleton****1932 – 2013**

Barry was born in 1932, during the Great Depression, and grew up in hard times but still enjoying many happy experiences.

He occupied many positions in community organisations, but his contribution to the McCrae Yacht Club was outstanding. He was Club Captain from 1983 to 1986, Rear, Vice and Commodore from 1991 to 1993. In these positions he provided leadership and down to earth common sense in all the projects in which he was engaged. In 2003 he became a Life Member

The support and encouragement of sailors, both young and old, in his enthusiastic style inspired them to compete to the best of their ability, but above all to enjoy sailing.

When Barry mixed seawater or frozen cloud with the activity in which he was engaged, he changed dramatically. Gone was the tubby, bearded, cuddly bear to a virtual demon, who loved going fast and taking risks.

He loved sailing and the time spent on the Flying Junior, Pacer, Tasar and Sabre provided plenty of spills and excitement especially during the annual Marathon race.

Always an enthusiastic helper on patrol boats and tractor, his enthusiasm one day retrieving a patrol boat ended up with the towbar through the radiator. Hence the birth of a steel structure on the front of the tractor aptly termed "The Staplegate". If anything was going to happen there would be a good chance Barry would be at the helm.

We will miss his cheery greeting and presence around the club

Barry sailed a great race and although it has finished his influence on so many in their sailing activities and lives goes on.

Vale Barry.

*Wal Evans*

**41<sup>st</sup> Australian Tasar Championships**

Eight Tasar crews from McCrae YC attended the 41<sup>st</sup> Australian Tasar Championships held over Christmas/New Year at neighbouring Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron. This was the largest number of Tasars from any single yacht club in the 67

boat fleet. The regatta was eventually won by Victorian couple Paul and Bronwyn Ridgway, who regularly sail at Sandringham, but visit here from time to time.

The results were very pleasing for the diverse level of skills and experience of our Tasar fleet, being led by Michael and Kim Paynter in 12<sup>th</sup> place overall, Alan and Ellie Riley in 21<sup>st</sup> place, Chris and Leanne Allen in 28<sup>th</sup> place, Jon Ross and Marita in 30<sup>th</sup>, then Super Grand Masters Bob and Dave Lorimer in 44<sup>th</sup> place, Dennis Hammond and Bronwyn Evans in 47<sup>th</sup>, Paul and Amanda Jenkins in 57<sup>th</sup> and bringing up the rear, Michael Bray and Peter Marsh in 66<sup>th</sup>. Special mention was made for Bob Lorimer being the oldest crewmember in the fleet, Bob telling all at the Welcome Night that he hoped to still be around for the Presentation night, which indeed he was!

The Invitation Race was abandoned before the expected gale hit Port Phillip Bay. Overall however, 10 races were held in generally breezy conditions on flat water – not unlike at McCrae.

The fleet is slowly returning to club racing during January with a solitary entrant in the gruelling marathon (Rileys) and some better numbers for the Captains Sternchaser with "Maybe" taking the Division 4 honours after the earliest starters sailed the wrong course – blowing their big chance to knock off the usual leaders! This might be because former club captain and Laser sailor Murray O'Brien teamed up with Vice Commodore Paul Jenkins and they couldn't decide which division they were in!

We return to Aggregate Racing in February in what is expected to be a closely fought series.

*Michael Paynter, Purple Patch*

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**Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta (AWKR)  
7-9 June**

Each year the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron organizes and hosts the AWKR over the Queen's Birthday weekend (7 -9 June). All women sailors are welcome to compete regardless of whether they are dinghy or keelboat sailors. The RMYS organizes the keelboats and the crews.

If you are interested, please check the event website [www.awkr.com.au](http://www.awkr.com.au) where you can register for the newsletter and for the event."

**WE'RE ON A ROLL** - Notes from the Roll-making team.

Many thanks to the volunteers cheerfully giving up a Saturday sleep-in, to help out with the rolls.

This year we have gone back to the old menu, but I would be delighted to hear from anyone who has suggestions for changes.

Thanks to the Social Committee and friends who coped with the massive roll making task over the Laser Regatta, while I was away at the A Class Nationals (I was helping in the Canteen there). *Priscilla Kopp*





**Laser 4.7 Development Squad**

Sailing can wait a minute...

In case you haven't noticed, an impromptu upgrade has taken place in the South West part of the boat yard; shade sails erected, seating installed, and a youth corner has emerged. Laughing occupants can be found there most Friday nights and Saturday lunchtimes. Our ten 4.7 sailors, honorary Radial sailors plus a couple of Minnows are in residence.

And so... to the sailing, our 4.7 group has had a busy summer. The Laser National's at McCrae was a highlight with Brody Riley taking out a fantastic 3<sup>rd</sup> place. This was backed up two days later at the Youth Nationals held at Blairgowrie where Brody placed 5<sup>th</sup> and Matilda Hiscock had a memorable third in the final race of the regatta. All our sailors are to be commended for their regatta preparation, perseverance on tough days and for giving it a go. New skills and knowledge have been developed and improvements noted for all sailors over the course of the summer. These kids are keen to learn.

The 4.7 is a new class for most of our sailors and so we are looking at the program as a '2 year project'. For most, the nationals over Christmas was their first true large boat regatta and there were lots of 'aha moments' about start lines, maintaining your lane and finding clear air.

Most impressive has been our participation numbers and the Club can be proud of the effort from this group. We had seven of the 54 entries for the Laser 4.7 division and three entries at the youth nationals. Our plan now is to keep up the momentum, continue to have fun and keep sailing and learning together.

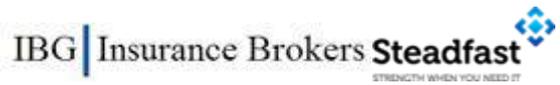
Finally, a huge thank you to Cameron Dunwoody for providing "Hector" the Duck as the support boat for both the Laser and the Youth Nationals. It made a big difference having a source of snakes, support and spare parts close by.

PS: A warm welcome to our latest additions to the 4.7 squad who joined over summer, Casey Imeneo and Sarah Whittaker. I think this makes the 4.7s the only class that has a 50/50 gender split!

*Lisa Barrand, 0422 248 851*



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IBG Insurance Brokers are offering to pay additional sponsorship income to the Club!

The offer is 5% sponsorship of all initial base premiums paid by members (and friends of Members) will be paid to the McCrae Yacht Club for any existing policies taken over by IBG Insurance Brokers via a letter of appointment at renewal or alternatively placed by IBG Insurance Brokers with other insurers.

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The Club's contact point for IBG Insurance Brokers is Ronnie Schwarz. Ronnie's contact details are

[Ronnie.Schwarz@ibgroup.com.au](mailto:Ronnie.Schwarz@ibgroup.com.au) Tel: +61 3 9813 3633 and be sure to let Ronnie know that you're a McCrae Yacht Club member!

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### Another Notch in Bangers Belt

This year's B14 Nationals (2013-2014) was hosted by Woollahra Sailing Club, Rose Bay, Sydney Harbour. 18 boats contested the event with four hailing from McCrae Yacht Club:

Guy Bancroft and Lachlan Imeneo - One more for the bone

Scott and Rhenny Cunningham - Bonework

Mark Lainson and John Nolan - Blown Seal

Kelvin Boyle and Amy Van Galan - Clean Skin

The event was held in a variety of conditions ranging from 2 – 18 knots. However, there were some constants: the Manly Ferries, the turbulent water, and Lachlan Imeneo's infectious 'glass half empty' view of the world.

As might be expected, Guy Bancroft and Lachlan Imeneo put together an almost faultless campaign to be crowned championship winners. However, competition has improved dramatically over the past five years with five separate race winners including Scott and Rhenny Cunningham. Even Mark Lainson had the rare pleasure of pinging Bangers on the line during Heat 6.



*Guy and Lachlan steaming to their 5<sup>th</sup> win in the 12 heat series.*

The event was co-staged with the Flying Dutchman's ..... but how things have changed! The former Olympic Class dinghy with the huge genoa (and herculean crew) is now a craft of choice for pensioners.



*The Manly Ferry, the turbulent water, and the pensioners' craft of choice.*

Fortunately, the B14 continues to grab the attention of talented youngsters and (in the case of McCrae), middle-aged gentlemen who would like to believe they are talented youngsters. Women have been another welcome addition to the fleet (one skipper and seven crews) – and they are no slouches having been represented on three of the top five boats.



*Mark Lainson clearing seaweed from the centreboard (practically sound but tactically disastrous).*

As usual, Kelvin Boyle was the self-appointed social director for the event. This year he surprised all by riding his mother's electric scooter (equipped with streamers and wicker basket) to and from the event. It certainly provided a distraction to the local constabulary who had been on the look out for a silver commodore station wagon.

As has already been announced, the 2014-2015 National Championship will be conducted at McCrae Yacht Club commencing on 27 December 2014. The Nationals will be a precursor event for the B14 World Championship to be held at McCrae commencing 2 January 2015.

To all Good Sports Clubs in the Mornington Peninsula region,

I am writing to invite you and your sports club members to attend a Responsible Serving of Alcohol Course at the:

**Rye Football Club on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 or Mornington Football Club on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

The course runs from 6.30-10.30pm and is **\$40.00 or \$80.00 per attendee** (they cost up to \$100 at TAFE). The certificate is industry recognized and allows participants to work in the hospitality area - as well as serve alcohol responsibly at your sports club!

So whether the season's about to start, or has finished up... now is a great time to participate in this training.

To find out about future RSA courses check out <http://goodsports.com.au/around-the-ground/events/>



### Paper Tiger National Championships

This year's Paper Tiger National Championships were hosted by the Portarlington Sailing Club on the Bellarine Peninsula. The event attracted a competitive

fleet of 27 boats, with entrants from Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and South Australia.

McCrae had a strong contingent of 7 skippers attend the regatta including newly returned members to McCrae Bryan Anderson and Mark Wiggins.

Mark Wiggins had a great start to the series, taking two race wins on the first day and another win on the second day to establish an early lead with Anderson a close second. Races 5 and 6 saw Anderson take two wins to then clinch the overall lead going into the final day. After several postponements while waiting for the wind to settle in, the final two races got underway in a 15-20 knot southerly and flat water, which made for fast and exiting Paper Tiger racing. Anderson won the final race to clinch the series with Wiggins a close second. Defending Champion, Tasmania's Bruce Rose finished third overall.

The women's division was won by Jani Marcovitch from NSW with Sarah Ashley-Jones of McCrae runner up.

Other McCrae skipper results were Alex Craig 4<sup>th</sup>, Luke Stout 5<sup>th</sup>, Ron Wiggins 15<sup>th</sup>, Keith Deed 17<sup>th</sup>, and Sarah Ashley-Jones 20<sup>th</sup>. For full results go to [www.vicpapertiger.org.au](http://www.vicpapertiger.org.au)

**Luke Stout**



### Club Captain's Report

Well done to all the sailors who participated in their national championships over the New Year period. A special mention must go to Mark Bulka for coming home a World Champion after taking the top spot at the Contender World Championships. Also to Bangers and Lachie for winning the B14 Nationals and Glen Ashby for getting home in the A Class Nationals. Please see Simon Merritt's article for the full regatta report.

### Volunteering

I would like to thank all the club members who helped at the recent Laser nationals held at McCrae over the New Year period. The championship was run to a very high standard both on and off the water, which was very much appreciated by the sailors and spectators. The club has also had plenty of good feedback from the Laser Association and organisers. The club was able to put on such great event because every day 50 plus volunteers were helping out. These roles included the race management team, patrol boat crews, catering and publicity.

From its inception, McCrae Yacht Club has a proud history of volunteering. Individuals have put in many years on committees, sail training, rescue boats as well as a multitude of other jobs around the yard, all to make McCrae the great club that it is. If the club is to continue in its current form, volunteering is required from all members. The majority of people are putting in with their duties and with only a couple of duties required each year in order to keep everyone sailing each week, I hope this is not too taxing.

The Sailing Committee is looking for interested people who would like to man/woman the tower. At the moment Anne Lorimer and Frank Reed are in the tower each week. Frank has been very ill the last couple of weeks so Anne has been doing most of the work herself. Lyn and Zarny have been doing the results this year, which has helped to spread the load. Ideally, what I am hoping for is 4 groups of 3 people who would be prepared to spend time in the tower once a month. All training would be provided and the job is mainly observing and supervising the on water activities. Hopefully the tasks are not overly arduous. This would count as your volunteer duties so if making rolls or working the bar is not your thing, maybe the tower is for you.

### Events

High profile events that are coming up are the Contender State Championships and the B14 State Championships in March this year, with the B14 National and World Championships over the New Year period next season. The next big event coming up is the Club Marine Victorian Youth Regatta in April with a big training week on and off the water as well as the Schools Sprint Championships.

The advantages of running these high profile events, I believe, outweigh the negatives. The big advantages are, that the club has worldwide media coverage and keeps our on water race management at a very high level. It also has a financial benefit as well, which then keeps our memberships fees at a reasonable level. The negatives come from the strain it puts on the volunteers. Next year we are having a slightly quieter regatta schedule, as the last couple of years have been very busy.

In closing I'd just like to remind everyone that if you are rostered on for a duty at the club and cannot complete the duty for any reason, it is up to you to organise a replacement. Rosters are put

out well in advance so swaps can be organised. We all want to sail and everyone has commitments, but the duties still need to be done.

*Jonathan Knorr, Club Captain*  
*"Don't Panic"*



### Pacer News



The Pacer National Championship was held at Christies S.C. in Adelaide from December the 28<sup>th</sup> until January the 4<sup>th</sup>. There were a total of 22 entrants from South Australia, Victoria and the A.C.T. Conditions were primarily light to moderate with four boats at the head of the fleet which dominated the racing. The winner of the Championship was Peter Kemp from Beaumaris

Y.C. sailing with his daughter Lauren. In second was Murray O'Brien from McCrae Y.C. with Liam and Anna as alternating crews. Third was Marc Read from Christies S.C. sailing with his daughter Georgia and fourth was Chris Dean also from Christies S.C. with his daughter Ella as crew. It was a very sociable regatta with many of us staying in the caravan park directly behind the club. Thanks also to all the fantastic volunteers at Christies S.C. for making it such a wonderful event!

The Pacer Victorian Championship will be held at Beaumaris Y.C. on the Labour Day long weekend March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. No matter what your level, everyone is encouraged to enter as there will be divisions for senior, junior, non-spinnaker and green fleet. Entry is available at [www.pacersailing.org.au](http://www.pacersailing.org.au)

### Minnow news

The Minnows have just completed their Australian Championship at Blairgowrie Y.S. during our hottest week of the summer! All but the first day were held in 40 degree plus temperatures, which tested the patience and nerves of competitors and race officials alike! Over 100 Minnows participated with a small majority of the fleet contesting the novice division.

Three boats from McCrae made the trip up the road with Cory Riley finishing in 11<sup>th</sup> position. Next was Anna O'Brien in 12<sup>th</sup> and Liam O'Brien came 17<sup>th</sup>. Well done all on your great effort! The winner was James Hackett from Blairgowrie. Congratulations James!

The Minnow Victorian Championship will be held at Parkdale Y.C. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. I would like to encourage all Minnow sailors to attend! There is a novice division for those who have not sailed in a Minnow Championship before and the entry fee has been reduced for the regatta to \$40!! Entry is at [www.minnow.org.au](http://www.minnow.org.au)

*Murray O'Brien, Rear Commodore*