



THE BEACON



McCrae Yacht Club

The Best on the Bay



COMMODORE'S COLUMN

Hi all,
It's been another action-packed couple of months.

The Sabre Regatta was well attended and McCrae shone through again with our superior race management and on-shore volunteers. There were many favourable comments from the competitors.

Murray O'Brien and David Briggs ran the adult sail training program over four weeks. This was well attended and bought in several new members. We also had another successful month of Green fleet sailing.

This club relies heavily on its volunteer base. The events above can only be possible if people are prepared to give up some of their time and become involved.

The end of month roast dinner organised by Jane Moffat (excellent !) and a month later, the Japanese barbecue organised by Murray and Akemi O'Brien (outstanding !) are other examples of events that have brought us together as a club.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved whether it be on the Social Committee, the General Committee or helping out on sail training days. McCrae has built up a reputation of being one the most active sailing clubs in the state. With everyone contributing in some way we can continue this great tradition over the years to come.

The presentation night is on the 23 May (see below). This will be our last chance to get together as this sailing season closes. I look forward to seeing you on the night.

Regards,

Paul

PRESENTATION NIGHT

Put it in your diary - Saturday 23 May at the Southern Peninsula Italian Social Club - 8 Newington Avenue, Rosebud [Melway 169 K7]. Tickets from Alona in the office and book your table on the seating plan in the club rooms. Adults \$45; Children [under 12] \$15. **Note:** This is not a BYO venue - drinks from the bar.

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that the 2015 AGM will take place at the clubrooms on Saturday 20 June at 8 pm.

The agenda will be provided to members by email, on the Club website and on the club notice board from 18 May.

Campbell Miles, Secretary



VICE COMMODORE'S COLUMN

It's nearly the end of another very successful season for McCrae Yacht Club. I'm not sure there has been another season with so many light wind or windless Saturdays though! The breeze seems to blow beautifully from Sunday to Friday then magically by 2:30 pm on Saturday it seems to fade to nothing then miraculously re-appear soon after we abandon the race or get back to shore. Oh well, such is sailing

and hopefully next year will bring better luck on the wind front!

On a personal note I've been trying to get out sailing as much as possible when the wind is blowing so as to avoid being disappointed. It's also good for working on your weaknesses and keeping those quadriceps strong for hiking. I'd certainly like to encourage more sailors to get out before and after racing. Improvement is all about spending as much effective time on the water as possible. With winter coming on there are plenty of opportunities, with sailing available every weekend at Albert Park. Over the Queen's Birthday weekend there are regattas at Sorrento and Sauna Sail at Hazelwood; Mordialloc also runs a winter series during August. For junior and youth sailors please check with your class associations for winter training opportunities.

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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

A warm welcome to our newest members:

- James Rigby. James is past junior member returning to sail a Taipan.
- Bradley Groves. Bradley joined us recently and has jumped into our adult sailing group for a skills refresh.
- Casey Newman. Casey is a returning past junior member and a keen kite-sailor.
- David Wilde and his partner Imelda and children Ravi and Indiana. David is a past member returning to sail a Mosquito.
- Lawrence and Helen Pascoe. Lawrence is another Sabre sailor.
- Liz Allen and daughters Isabelle and Claudia
- Robert and Rinrada Pletikos and daughters Emily and Natasha

Joining us as members for the rest of this season as part of our adult sailing group of 2015 are:

- Ashlee Kay
- Ebony Flett
- Hamish McGillivray
- Dianne Durham
- Eileen Donaldson

Please say hello when you meet them around the club.

Peter Marsh

'CONTENDER' VICTORIAN STATE TITLES REPORT

From our Special Correspondent

On the weekend of 14 and 15 March, the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron played host to this year's State Titles. With 23 entries, it was one of the best-attended Contender State Titles.

McCrae Yacht Club was the best represented Club, with Mark Bulka, Dan Kohlman, Tony Nash (almost a member), Jeff Owen, Scott Munro and Andrew Barrett all flying the McCrae flag.

Conditions on the Saturday were trying, with initially no wind, and then too much!!! We only sailed one race out of the scheduled three. Solid performances by our own current World Champ Mark Bulka and local Blairgowrie boy Johnny Lindholm were the standouts.

Sunday proved to be a glorious day for Contender sailing, with strong southerly winds.

Three races were held with two bullets going to Bulka, and one to Dan Kohlman.

Top 3 were:

Mark Bulka, First Place. 1, 1, (2), 1.

Dan Kohlman, Second Place. (4), 2, 1, 4.

Tony Nash, Third Place. 3, 8, 4, 5.

Scott Munro

Winners in the 2015 Victorian State 'Contender' championships. [Left to right] Tony Nash, Mark Bulka and Dan Kohlman.

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McCrae Yacht Club is an Accredited Level 3 club with respect to the Responsible Service of Alcohol, Safe Transport and No Smoking policies. These policies are available on the Club's website and are posted on the notice board in the clubrooms.

TASAR TOPICS

The sailing season has rolled along with lighter winds but close competition amongst the Tasar Fleet. Even Andy Miller has finally hit the water! Paul and Amanda Jenkins have been steadily improving, thanks to some on-water coaching but Harry Watson seems to have stuck his head in the club accounts and the Mansons have gone AWOL!



Following the World Championship in Busselton WA over January, it wasn't long before the State Championship was held at neighbouring Safety Beach YC over the Labour Day weekend. Alan and Ellie Riley represented McCrae YC, as regulars Chris and Leanne Allen went cruising on the Gippsland Lakes, while the Paynters were on duty at the F1 Grand Prix.

We were a bit sorry to see that Lisa Barrand has sold her Tasar 2901 but rumour has it that it will shortly resurface in club racing.

The Allens and the Paynters holidayed at Lake Boga over Easter, with the Paynters taking out the coveted Southern States Tasar Championships – a nice way to end the season. We were pleased to be joined by remnants of the Sabre fleet at Boga, with the Newmans, O'Briens and Briggs families enjoying a wonderful Easter holiday with the senior fleet. Some early work was done to get a rock star agent into the Tasar fleet next season, but you will have to wait for my next report to find out who it is!

See you all on the water next season.

Michael & Kim Paynter 'Peregrine' 2950





Join in the Fun!

Mornington Peninsula - Mother's Day Classic 2015

For National Breast Cancer Foundation

4 km - Walk or Run

When: Sunday 10 May 2015 - 9.00 am
Where: Dromana Pier to McCrae Lighthouse
A Shuttle Bus will run between McCrae & Dromana for a gold coin donation.

Cost: Adults - \$20
Student/Healthcare - \$10
Child under 18 - \$10
Family (2 adults, up to 4 children) - \$50
Family (1 adult, up to 4 children) - \$30



Getting together after the 2014 walk in the McCrae Yacht Club grounds for refreshments.

Register on: www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/event/vic/mornington-peninsula-vic

Like on: www.facebook.com/mothersdayclassicMP/

Dress in pink, walk /run with your mum, friends, family or school/class team. Let's work together to assist the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

[Want to sponsor/donate? Contact: Anne-Maree on peninsulamdc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:peninsulamdc@optusnet.com.au)

Note: Any members of McCrae Yacht Club who would like to volunteer their services to Anne-Maree Townsend to help with organization or marshalling at the road crossing points along the walk are asked to email Ree on peninsulamdc@optusnet.com.au.

TRAINING CENTRE REPORT

Well another sailing school season has come to a close and we have seen lots of kids and adults taking to the water and improving their sailing skills or just having fun 'messing about in boats'. It's always great to see the mums or dads and their sons or daughters out sailing together and I can't think of too many sports where you can do that.

We ran 11 Saturday morning sessions over November, December and February with an average of 27 people attending each week and a maximum of 38 people on the first Saturday in February. The ages ranged from 7 to 60. We managed to get out on the water most weeks with only one or two where there was too much wind for the less experienced groups. While the numbers may not look huge, there is a real buzz around the lawn on Saturday mornings and we are delivering a high quality program in a great family atmosphere.

The Junior Start Sailing Group run by Scott Watson started with only 4 pupils in November, but by the end of the season he had 14 in his group, 7 of whom joined after attending Tackers in January. This augers well for next season. They ended the season with a Treasure Hunt where they needed to sail to a beach near the Pier to find the treasure - Haylee's Better Sailing Opti Group joined in. The Racing group was

much smaller this year with the 4.7 group moving into coaching but we have four of the six kids sailing regularly on Saturday afternoon now.

We couldn't have had such a successful season without the dedication and regular attendance of our Instructors - Racing Group - Jeff Owen, Better Sailing (Pacers) - Steve Floyd and Neil Whitaker, Better Sailing (Optis) - Haylee and Start Sailing - Scott Watson. I can't speak highly enough of the Assistant Instructors (AIs) who helped out most weeks - Casey Imeneo, Evie Knorr, Hugo Briggs, Louis Chapman, Tom O'Brien, Hamilton Nesci, Anna O'Brien and Liam O'Brien. Ross Berryman, Matilda Hiscock, Oscar Manson. There are some good instructors in the making in this group.

In the background, thanks also go to the crew setting up and packing away the powerboats each week, under the guidance of Trevor Knight - Michael Johannessen, Fabian Nesci, Matthew Chapman with Jamie Caithness on the Tractor most weeks and Jane Moffat and Lyn in the tower.

The whole show was headed up by Haylee who managed everyone superbly.

Well done to Monica Mullins who attended the Lidgett Cup at Davey's Bay in February and the

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other kids who attended their State and National titles.

Our Sunday Adult Start Sailing group in February had 14 attendees and for the first time ever I think, we managed to get out on the water each of the four sessions – we usually lose at least one week through bad weather. Thanks to Murray O'Brien for stepping up to be Head Instructor for this course and for David Briggs who helped him and Scott Munro who skippered the third RIB each week.

Ashlee Kay (Adult Sailing course), noted "I decided to enrol in the Adult Sailing Course in February at McCrae because I was keen to learn a new skill and I had heard that the McCrae Yacht Club was very friendly and welcoming to new members. I asked my friend to join me and we both signed up. The four week course exceeded my expectations. I wasn't sure what to expect, but since doing the course I have a new appreciation for sailors and have developed a love for sailing. Despite capsizing a few times each week, we always came out of the water with a smile on our faces. All the club members who helped each week were such a blessing. I appreciated their tips and support and for making me feel so welcome. I look forward to the sailing course in November."

Once again the AIs were fantastic and most of the AIs who helped on Saturday mornings turned up on the four Sundays as well to help the adults get their sea legs. Also in the yard were Michael Johannessen and Trevor Knight setting up RIBS and Graham Townsend on the tractor.

Sailing for Schools - Graham Mason

The Sailing for Schools season is over, and again it was a very successful one with school kids being involved in the sailing activities during February.

Many Club members would not be aware of the hive of activity at the club during the mid-week period in February with Little Yarra Steiner School, Oxley College, Box Hill North Primary, Rosebud Primary and Goulburn Valley Grammar all involved.

Generally, the kids arrive in buses (except Rosebud Primary who ride their bikes from the school) and spend the morning or afternoon with us in the classroom and on the water. It is a great team building activity and if they do not get the team work correct they usually have a swim.

The weather was great excepting for the sessions with Goulburn Valley Grammar. With a class of 33 kids each session and 3 to a Pacer it was necessary to hire additional boats. We had very mixed condition with drifting and towing practice on some days, and days when the kids could not sail themselves. We had to >> reef the boats and take them for a sail in the heavy conditions.

Whether it was Primary or Secondary schools, all the 350 kids who sailed in February enjoyed themselves, and we got some great feedback from their teachers.

As you can see above, these courses use up a lot of human resources which are often not seen by the rest of the members. The Instructors, AIs and helpers give of their time freely, so it is doubly appreciated.

The Training Centre Committee is reviewing the season just completed and has already turned their attention to next season.

The Training Centre Committee members are Lyn and me, Jane Moffat, Scott Watson, Trevor Knight, Steve Berryman and Haylee Berryman. I'd like to thank them for the time they have put into this Committee. Steve is taking a

breather and will not re-nominate. I once again particularly thank Lyn for her tireless dedication to keeping the Training Centre at the forefront of my daily chores. At many times the Training Centre is the business hub of the Club. Lyn's backroom work ensures that the decisions I need to make are well informed, current and relevant. I know she will decline the accolades but they are many and are well deserved.

On that note neither Lyn nor I are re-nominating for the Training Centre at the next AGM. We feel it is time for the injection of fresh ideas into the Training Centre. If you have any interest in nominating for the Training Centre Committee, please see me in the Yard. You don't need to be a qualified Instructor to be on the Committee – just interested in encouraging this vital part of our Club.

Guy Bancroft Training Centre Principal

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

As the season draws to a close, the Sailing Committee can start to sit back and reflect on the big year but also start planning for the next one to come. Regattas already locked in are the YV Victorian Catamaran Championship on the 28 and 29 November and the Minnow Nationals over the New Year period.

As of next season, three sailors will be rostered on each sailing day to fulfil the following roles: swimmer, boat driver and on-water helper.

I really appreciate the entire membership of the Sailing Committee, particularly in the last half of the year, as they have turned into the "Non-Sailing Committee" to man the rescue boats along with the regular crews.

If any members know of anyone who would like to help out on a rescue boat or in the tower in any way, please let anyone on the Committee know so a rotating roster can be organised.

The after-Easter program:

Sat 18 11:30 Green Fleet Championship
14:30 Aggregate & **Medal Races - Class Champs**
17:30 March / Medal Races / Green Fleet Presentation

Sat 25 14:30 ANZAC Day Sternchaser

Sat 2 09:00 Working Bee

Sat 23 19:00 Presentation Night

Happy sailing

Jon Knorr

MCCRAE LASER FLEET- BREAKING NEWS

At the completion of the Victorian youth regatta held at Mornington last weekend the members of the Victorian Sailing Team 2015/16 were announced. Congratulations to McCrae sailors *Casey Imeneo* and *Brody Riley* who both qualified in the Laser Radial class. They gained selection with strong performances in the various qualifying regattas including the Laser Nationals in Mandurah WA. More details on the YV web site. Looking for a new class to sail next year? Why not consider joining the McCrae Laser fleet for season 2015/16? The Laser class offers: Excellent fleet racing at McCrae; three rig options cater for all age groups & body weights from 35 to 90+kg; strictly controlled design means the Laser holds its resale value better than any other class and the Laser offers high class championships every year at State, National & International levels.

John D'Helin

McCrae Laser fleet

INNER SHINE WORKSHOP

Inner Shine (Amanda Hill & Jacqui Van Weel) will be hosting a wellness workshop this May at McCrae Yacht Club.

The day will involve collectively exploring how to bring more peace & joy into our lives.

Amanda & Jacqui will give you a taste test of some yoga, Qi Gong and meditation techniques that been incredibly powerful in their own lives. It will be a great way to connect with like-minded individuals. A healthy lunch, raw desserts and herbal tea will be provided.

Tickets to this event are \$80 and will be available to be purchased online from mid-April.

Please email amanda@inner-shine.com or jacqui@inner-shine.com for any further details.



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VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

I'd like to take the opportunity at this point to thank all our hard working volunteers for their incredible commitment to making things happen at our club. There are people working very hard behind the scenes week in and week out who are sometimes hardly seen, but are always there making sure things get done. It couldn't happen without you all, so thank you again!

As with the last edition of The Beacon, I have to note the sad passing of another esteemed McCrae Y.C. member. Of course, I'm referring to Wal Evans. Wal will be sadly missed by all of us, but it was great to see such a huge turnout at his life celebration. He certainly was a popular man and important mentor to many of us including me, particularly as a junior sailing committee member way back in the mid 1980s. Wal carefully guided my way as much as a selfish 22 year old could be guided, but the lessons in life are now remembered, learnt and hopefully passed on to the next generation. My sincerest condolences to Lorraine, Phil, Bron, Greg, partners and grandchildren.

Happy sailing

Murray O'Brien

B14 UPDATE

Little to report on the B14 front, as most boats have been taking a break after a pretty hectic first half of the season. Following the Worlds, a couple of excellent boats have come on the market and we would love to see them stay at the club or at least in Victoria. Checkout www.b14.org and go to marketplace.

The 2016 B14 Worlds will be at Lake Garda, Italy, so if you are looking for an overseas sailing holiday you should consider this event. More details to follow but there will be a number of McCrae boats participating.

Ron Kane

SABRE NEWS

On behalf of our great contingent of 16 McCrae Sabre Sailors who sailed in the State Titles – a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped organise and run the event. There were 72 entries and although we only managed to squeeze in three races due to an inconvenient lack of wind on the second day, it was a great vibe. I heard one visiting sailor say..." This is such a great club, why haven't we sailed here before?" What a great testament to the friendly McCrae folk who organised trailers, mowed lawns, made lunches, tended the bar, recorded results – and of course ran our RACING! The members of this club are wonderful and make the place what it is 😊 Thank you.

In terms of results, let's just say 'a drop' would have been beneficial for quite a few of us. Murray O'Brien was sitting on results of 29, 2,2 but had to carry the 29. I would have appreciated just one more race myself! Others nailed it anyway... Louis Chapman took out first in the youth, Peter Cass took out first in the over 90 kg category, Dhana Taylor third in the women's and Hamilton Nesci for doing so well the oldest boat (402).

On the club sailing front we continue to welcome new members to the Sabre fraternity... Greg Newman and David Macdonald are now out there with a couple quality boats.

Learning to go faster in a Sabre

The Sabres sailors at McCrae have been coming together for a friendly development session at 6 pm on the third Friday each month during the sailing season and these will continue next year as well. Everyone is welcome –beginners and legends alike. Come along!

Lisa Barrant





FROM THE YOUTH CLUB CAPTAINS

The Green Fleet Championships are a series of races, spanning five weeks following Saturday morning Sailing School and Adult Sail Training. Their purpose is to encourage novices to extend what they have learnt throughout the season by completing close to shore races on Saturday morning before club racing in the afternoon.

This year, Green Fleet commenced on 14 March with a combination of new members from adult sail training, Tackers and our youth group getting involved. We even had the weather on our side with an absolutely perfect 10 knot breeze to kick off the championships.

The following weeks have also been a success, with us progressively gaining more keen skippers, consequently expanding the fleet.

It has been a pleasure for us to watch the sailors come back to race in the championships week after week and see them gain confidence in a racing environment. Anyone is welcome to come along to the final two weeks of Green Fleet (11 and 18 April) and there will be a presentation to congratulate all those involved on the final week.

Casey Imeneo and Evie Knorr

Youth Club Captains

DEVELOPING FUTURE FEMALE LEADERS

In one of the surveys that Yachting Victoria conducted, female sailors responded that they would like to see more females in club leadership roles and they felt this would encourage further female membership and participation as well as enhancing the female friendliness of the club.

This program has been designed specifically for Yachting Victoria to help women to develop and build on their leadership skills. The course is for those who want to develop their confidence in communication and presentation skills, their understanding of the power of body language, their assertiveness levels, management skills and professional image. It is hoped that this program will facilitate more women stepping up into leadership roles or volunteering for committees. The tools they will learn and practice in this highly interactive program can be used in all areas of life.

The cost of the course is \$250 p.p., however YV is subsidising it, so the cost for attendance is \$125p.p. McCrae YC Training Centre will reimburse a further 50% but applications need to be endorsed by the Training Centre Principal – Guy Bancroft.

There are two options for attendance in different formats - The first course is in a one day format on the 31st May at the Boatshed in Albert Park, and the second course is spread over two nights, 11 and 18 June also at the Boatshed. If you would like further information, please contact our Women and Girls in Sailing rep – Jane Moffat on 0425 715 812 or email Jane on janemoffat@iprimus.com.au

MEMBERS' CRAFT FOR SALE

Laser – 'Chickenman'

In as new condition: full rig and radial rig. Beach trailer and boat cover.

Sail No.185728 Hardly sailed. Price: \$3800.

The boat is at the McCrae Y.C.

Contact Bob Mace Tel: 03-5986-3332 Mobile:0407341094

Optimist 837 - 'Crazy Bird'

Quantum sail; New top and bottom cover. Spare rudder; all foil bags and trolley - ready to sail. Great entry boat. \$2000

ONO Contact Bronwyn Evans

Tel: 0408558890 or email: birds5@bigpond.com

Our much-loved *Seaway 25 trailer-sailer, 'Cuckoo's Nest'* needs a good home.

Under tarps in restoration, she still needs some work but comes with copious gear and sails (including spinnaker, two new radios and switchboard wiring already fitted). Although she needs some TLC to bring her up to her best, she could be sailed 'as is'.

She comes with a trailer (brakes fully overhauled), a Mercury long shaft, 2 stroke, 8 hp outboard motor and 25 litre fuel tank.

A new mast section and a Harken headfoil forestay are available as a separate sale.

Price: negotiable – speak to Graham Candy for further information.

Zodiac 310 (10') rigid inflatable boat (near new). Comes with an 8 hp Mercury short shaft 2 stroke motor, oars, pump, seat, stowage bag (for when deflated) and extra under-seat stowage bag.

Folds: to 1.76 m x 0.90 m x 0.30 m (in bag) (without motor). Registered. Price: \$1900.00

Quicksilver 3.10m (10') inflatable boat

Comes with an internal hard bottom (four panels) and inflatable V-bottom tube, oars, pump, stowage bag.

Very quick boat with a 10 hp outboard on the back (not included). Registered. Price: \$750.00

For full details and to arrange an inspection contact Graham Candy Tel: 0418-503290

WINDS, TIDES AND CURRENTS AT McCRAE

PART 1

This is the start of a two part series to unlock the mysteries of winds, tides and currents at McCrae, to help those who do not yet have these secrets to catch up with those who do!

I invite contributions from those experts who disagree with me. Don't call me – write to the editor!

The first thing to say that the Bureau's weather forecast is very rarely a good guide for what is going to happen at McCrae [also see the Club Captain's comments in the February Beacon - ed.]. The forecasts are basically for the middle of the Bay, which is so large that each beach has its own distinct weather pattern that can vary greatly from the BOM's predictions.

The only way to predict accurately the weather at McCrae is to stand on the mats and use your eyes and ears. What I am saying is: don't sit in Melbourne and decide not to go down to McCrae to sail because the forecast is ordinary. You will more than likely miss out on a great day's sailing (and aggregate points).

A warning: The Weather Bureau says that winds can be more than 40% higher than forecast and waves double the predicted height. **I am giving the same warning** (and I also say that the chances of any "local expert" at McCrae, including me, being right about the weather on any given day *are only slightly better than 50%*)

When (and why) on a warm summer day will a decent morning breeze fizzle out (and when will it come back again)?

Sometimes it does fizzle, sometimes it does not. The key to winning on a day like that is to know when the changes are likely to occur and to be in the best position to take advantage of them.

Let us first look at the usual pattern on that kind of day, so you know better how to predict what will happen as the day unfolds. In a later article, I will explain why it happens.

In the morning on a hot summer day, when the wind is blowing onshore from the north, the sails on the beach will be flogging and waves big enough to body surf will make launching pretty tricky. However, beyond the somewhat daunting break on the outer sand bar, you will often find pleasant (if roly) sailing. Getting back onto the beach could involve a very exciting sleigh ride but hopefully not a broach in shallow water.

If the wind is from due north (Melbourne) or has a touch (or more) of east (i.e. from Mt. Martha), it will almost inevitably fade at around lunchtime, leaving the Bay as flat as a tack by about 2.30 pm.

Most likely, the wind will be dead and the bay flat until after 5 pm, when an easterly breeze will come in from the direction of Dromana and steadily freshen as the sun sinks.

If the wind has a touch of north-west in its direction in the morning (from Altona), it could also fade by lunchtime, but is much more likely just to stay strong, easing just a bit, so you will find a big rolling sea on the race course.

If the wind is well into the north-west (Werribee or further west), it will probably remain at the same speed (or greater) all day. What you see is what you will get. With this wind, watch out if dark clouds build in the west (in the arc between Geelong and the Heads) and move towards the Club during the afternoon. This usually means that a significant south-west change is coming, with big wind and rain.

Such a front normally moves fairly slowly up the Bay from the direction of the Heads and can be seen from a long way off. Usually, if the change appears in the western sky during a race, there is time to get the race finished, but a decision to shorten course may be wise as it approaches.

Westerly and south-westerly fronts that appear as black clouds and a rain line over Sorrento/Blairgowrie can (and commonly do) split in two, particularly if there is thunder – one cell will go up the Bay without touching the waters between the Channel and McCrae and the other will go around the back of Arthurs Seat, leaving between them a nice 15-18 knot breeze in the waters off the Club.

The time to get ready for a blast is when you see Rosebud Pier disappearing into the rain line. Then you KNOW we are going to cop it - in about 20 minutes.

Something else to watch out for on a hot and dead calm afternoon while you are drifting around the course (or worse – the starting line). A thin white or dark line can appear on the water on the western horizon (i.e., towards Sorrento) and move rapidly towards the Club.

This line is not the sea breeze, but the first signs of what might be a strong change from the west or south-west. This is called a "clear air change" because there are no clouds above to give any warning. If you were down at the Club (or worse, on the water) for the invitation race in the Laser Nationals, you will have seen a classic example.

If you see such a line, prepare yourself and your boat, in case it comes in really hard. I have seen these lines fizzle to nothing but also build beyond 40 knots! So, as the line gets thicker, time for you to think about being on a tack that is pointing towards the beach.

Such a change will hit you as a few random puffs at first, but can get very fresh very quickly. If it is a flash in the pan, nothing is lost if you are on a tack pointing at the shore; if it gets nasty, you can feather your sails and work your way in. In this case, best to hit the beach whenever you can and get the sails down – don't try to battle back to the Club.

Part 2 in the next issue.

Graham Candy