



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 4 PM, SATURDAY 22 JUNE**



**COMMODORE'S REPORT**

Finishing my first term as Commodore, I must start by thanking the many members who have contributed so much during the 2018/2019 season. Many thanks to Mark O'Brien and Michael Paynter for initiating and coordinating the disability access and lift project which is now at the drafting stage.

For those who may not know, McCrae Yacht Club was awarded a \$147,000 grant from the Australian Sports Foundation to construct and install disability access, new amenities and a lift. Without the input and due diligence from these two outstanding members, the grant may never have eventuated, thank you! In addition, at the AGM we will be putting up a motion for some extra funds to complete the lift project and amenities upgrade.

I would like to thank Akemi O'Brien for yet again another season of hard work, effort and dedication to ensure that every race day, (including regattas), the canteen is always stocked and pristine.

While on the subject of food and catering, I would also like to extend a big thank you to Jackie Loader and Claudia Jagger for their sterling efforts in organising some great, fun social get-togethers. I would also like to thank Priscilla and Ros for the delicious rolls provided every race day as well as all those members who turned up for their rosters of canteen, bar and house.

It's important to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of the youth coming through the club, so a special thank you to Monica Mullens and Jarod Riley as Youth Club Captains and all their hard work throughout the season.

The Training Centre, lead by Murray O'Brien was extremely busy throughout the season and I would like to commend them all on their hard work and dedication to the cause. I wish to thank Trevor Knight for his years of service as administrator of the Training Centre and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Jeff Owen, Shane Baker, Scott Watson and their team of windsurfing enthusiasts also provided a terrific windsurfing program which will continue on next season and by all accounts well into the future.

A massive shout out to all the members of the Sailing Committee, lead by Richard Nicholson, which has provided all the on water skills and equipment necessary to keep us sailing from week to week. At this point we must also thank the tireless efforts of the patrol boat crews who front up every sailing day to perform their magnificent race management skills. The Club is indebted to your contribution.

I would like to thank the yard master Guy Bancroft and his crew for keeping our club looking so well-maintained. Special thanks to Joey Randall for his building skills and knowledge and also special thanks to Scott Hailes for his precision mowing and precision placement of all things beverage in the bar.

With regard to the General Committee, I would like to thank Joel Van Weel for his contribution throughout the season, in particular his efforts with the 'Discover Sailing' day in January. Another member I would like to thank is Andrew Barrett for managing Sailing for Schools over the past two years. Lauren Candy is also departing the GC after one year of valuable service as 'new membership' coordinator.

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## CONTENDER NEWS

### States at Paynesville

The Contenders and their State Championships at Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club over 23-24 March and 11 of the 26 competitors were McCrae sailors! Great effort guys!

On the Saturday, we had three races in light conditions which saw McCrae boys Mark Bulka, Scotty Cunningham and Joseph Randall showing everyone how to sail in the light conditions. Joey has recently purchased Dan Kohlman's old boat, and immediately put it to good use.

The Sunday was also looking light early on, but the wind built steadily over the afternoon, ending up in the 20 knot range. The last of the 6-race series saw a few sailors hitting the beach early.

Overall, it was a great regatta and a friendly club great race organisation. Big thanks to all at the Gippsland Lakes yacht Club.

Positions were:

1. Mark Bulka
2. Scott Cunningham
3. Matt Mulder (NSW)
7. Joey Randall
11. Scott Munro
13. Jeff Owen
14. Michael Hughes
15. Scott Watson
18. Steve Young
19. Andrew Barrett
22. Peter Bulka
23. Neil Whitaker

### World Champs in France

Other big news for the Contenders are the upcoming World Championships in France. We have a full container load being shipped in April, with seven McCrae guys making the trip. Leading the charge will be reigning world champion Mark Bulka.

Jeff Owen, Joey Randall, Andrew Barrett, Neil Whitaker, Steve Young and myself are also making the journey in July.

### Nationals in Brisbane

The Contenders will be doing Nationals in Brisbane early January 2020 – so plenty to keep practicing for.

### Second-hand boats

There is currently a good supply of quality second-hand boats on the market. So if you are thinking of getting yourself a great Contender to sail, check out our website [www.revolutionise.com.au/ICAA/home/](http://www.revolutionise.com.au/ICAA/home/)

Cheers

**Scotty Munro**

## NSW SABRE TITLES

9-10 March

Seven Victorian Sabre sailors travelled to Wallagoot Lake Boat Club near Tathra for the N.S.W. Sabre state titles. It's a really beautiful venue in the middle of a National Park right on the coast. The water is flat and launching is from a nice sandy beach. Unfortunately the breeze did not live up to its reputation but the sailing was pleasant nevertheless. From McCrae, Graham Mason, Liam O'Brien and Murray O'Brien made the trip and competed in the 25-boat fleet. Winds were mainly in the 4 to 8 knot range with the odd 10 knot gust. One race on Sunday did peak at about 12 knots however.

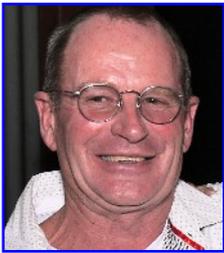
Murray won the event so is the new N.S.W. Sabre champion. The real battle was for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. Going into the last heat, Liam was in fourth place overall trailing Barry Eastgate and Bruce Abbott by a couple of points. The wind got very light and we were all wondering if it would be possible to finish at all. At the last leeward mark Barry was leading with Murray fourth and Liam in maybe sixth. Bruce was back a bit further. Liam spotted some breeze to the left and took the flyer out there which paid off, winning the heat from Murray then Barry. This put Bruce and Liam on 11 points each but with Liam winning on the count-back because he won the last heat. Barry ended up on 11.5 points putting him into fourth... how close is that!

Anyway, I would recommend the venue and the event. It was a lot of fun and we all intend to go back and hopefully encourage some of the rest of you to come with us next year.

Victorians took the top six places with the first two N.S.W. boats being Wendy Atkins and Aurora Patterson in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively. Hopefully we can get some of our ladies to come and challenge the N.S.W girls next year! They would love to see you there.

**Murray O'Brien**





**END-OF-SEASON YARD AND HOUSE REPORT**

And so another season closes with a successful working bee on 11 May. Thanks to all those volunteers whom braved the elements and came along to help tidy up and winterise the yard and premises.

Thanks and cheers to all owners that removed boats as requested and on time. Please, if you intend to leave your boat at the Club for winter, make sure you make contact with Alona regarding fees etc.

Despite managing to squeeze a few additional placements, yard spots were again at a premium, particularly in the Cat yard. We expect the same situation for next season. Early application combined with good previous participation both on and off the field will help you gain a place.

Winter projects for a small team include the installation of new racks for boards and kayaks etc. into the west corner of the yard. This prime location will allow easier and quicker access the water. These racks will be roofed for added protection.

Keeping McCrae's lovely sand outside the lawn is always a chore and to this end our beach fence will be further enhanced over the winter. There is also a plan to replenish the world's best yacht club lawn during spring.

Following the worthy grant from Greg Hunt MP, all things House will be covered off by others in this Beacon and further at our upcoming AGM.

The Yardmaster reins will most likely pass to one Dave Parker for the upcoming next season. With plenty of positive support and a return to form I'm sure he is more than capable of assuming and improving the role.

Thanks again to the squad of quiet achievers who have continued to help me keep yard and house in such great shape over the past few years.

Keep Sailing!

**Guy 'Bangers' Bancroft**



Now the season has passed I hope all members enjoyed the great sailing conditions and congratulations to all winners during the season.

Since the last Beacon, hockingstuart Rosebud-Dromana has been extremely busy with in excess of 100 sales locally since Christmas. Many great results in McCrae include;

51-53 Armstrong Road, McCrae – vacant land - \$1,050,000

2 Murray Street, McCrae - \$1,203,000

14 Bentley Road, McCrae - \$605,000

4 Fairway Crescent, McCrae - \$970,000

13 Matthew Street McCrae - \$800,000

13 Henry Court, McCrae - \$515,000

47 Bayview Road, McCrae - \$1,020,000

13 Catherine Street, McCrae - \$870,000

There has been some positive signs in the market place since the coalition won the Federal election. The buyers now have a sense of confidence with further support of the recent interest rate drop.

The forecast for property in the coming months seem encouraging for both home owners and buyers with a further interest rate drop predicted prior to Christmas 2019.

So if you are looking at moving to the Peninsula or simply looking to invest, there has never been a better time to get into the property market.

This winter we are running a promotion to go in the draw to win a \$2,000 travel voucher for any home owner that receives an appraisal with hockingstuart Rosebud-Dromana until the end of August.

Just a reminder to all members, if you are considering selling and you list and sell your home with hockingstuart Rosebud-Dromana we donate \$500 back to the Club.

On behalf of everybody at hockingstuart we thank all members who have made contact with us over the past few months in obtaining free appraisals of their properties, your support is very much appreciated.

A special thank you to Club member Trevor Knight who has listed his McCrae holiday home for Auction at the end of June. (Best of luck Trevor for a great result)

We look forward to our ongoing relationship and look forward to seeing you at the club later in the year.

**Grant McConnell**

## TRAINING CENTRE REPORT



The Training Committee has already begun planning for the coming 2019-20 season. We are hoping to introduce the new Structured Learning Methodology system from October and we are continuing to take advice from Don Elks regarding its implementation.

Sailing is at a crossroads. The bulk of us who still participate actively in the sport came to sailing during the boom

of the 1960s, 70s and 80s but our numbers are beginning to thin out. Sailing as a sport was in the news with consistent Australian America's Cup participation and the kids of the plywood homebuilt kit boat revolution continued to follow in their parent's footsteps. These points drive people into the sport. Boats are now primarily professionally built fibreglass so the homebuilt concept and the commitment to sailing that it engendered has ceased to be a force in driving our sport. A new way has to be found to bring a new generation of sailors in. At this point we see no better option than to commit to the only program available that achieves the end of creating a whole new generation of club members, which is Structured Learning Methodology. Constant improvement in skills and competence by providing great training opportunities are the key it seems to gaining new sailors and keeping them.

If you care for the future of sailing and all the benefits it brings to those who participate, and the broader community as a whole, I would encourage all members to support us in what we are trying to achieve. Helping new families settle in to the sailing life will be a major task that will need careful management.

### Club Pacers

The last of the club Pacers that were for sale has been sold to club member Tim Morris. Tim intends to teach his young daughters to sail. Thanks Tim! This means the club now has four Pacers left which will still be used for our extensive club and schools program.

### Training Centre Administrator

With Trevor Knight vacating the role of Training Centre administrator, we are still in need of someone to step into this role. It is an extremely important role which includes some data entry, set up of courses and keeping the Principal on track. Please call me if you are interested in this really important part of the successful functioning of our club!

Thank you Trevor Knight!

Trevor has been an extremely valuable member of the Training Committee for a number of years and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude. He has been a pleasure to work with and contributed so much. He has been a great all-rounder, setting up coach boats, driving the tractor, and undertaking Training Committee building projects as well as administration commitments. We will all miss him in the role.

**Murray O'Brien**, Training Centre Principal



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### Commodore's Column

The paid staff is also invaluable to the Clubs' management, and I would like to extend a big thank you to all of them.

Thanks to my 'wingmen', Vice Commodore Jon Knorr and Rear Commodore Scott Cunningham for all their support and advice throughout the season and I look forward to working alongside them again during the season 2019/ 2020. Presently, the finances of the club are in a healthy state and I have enjoyed working with Micheal Paynter and our accountants throughout the season.

Many thanks to Prue, Hugo and Freya for their support, patience and for always being there with endless encouragement and wisdom during my time as Commodore.

Last but definitely NOT least, a huge thank you to Club Secretary Lyn Johannessen for her professionalism and diligence, and who has tirelessly offered me support, advice and direction to a very 'wet behind the ears' Commodore. It is with regret, however that I announce the departure of Lyn as Club Secretary and thank her again for all her encouragement but don't despair as Lyn will be still be involved with club activities.

And finally to all our stalwart members who may be travelling overseas or interstate to escape some or all of the Melbourne winter, travel well and return safely.

**Commodore David Briggs**

**FREEWHEELING CYCLES**  
**GIANT ROSEBUD**



**LASER NEWS**

McCrae YC held the Laser States in February with 72 sailors competing. Racing was cancelled on Saturday, so a Q&A session was arranged chaired by Simon Merritt with Brody Riley and Casey Imeneo in the hot seats. Listening to these young adults talk about their journey was inspiring. They are a credit to their families and the club.

The race officer did a great job on the Sunday completing four races which allowed for a worst result drop. This always makes the fleet happy. McCrae sailors took out the trifecta in the Radials with Brody 1<sup>st</sup>, Simon 2<sup>nd</sup> and Casey 3<sup>rd</sup>. Well done.

The Laser standard rigs were dominated by Melbourne clubs and in 4.7s, Blairgowrie YS with 50% of the fleet numbers did very well although young Taj Duff from

Gippsland Lakes YC took home the winner's cube.

**International Laser News**

Last May, the World Sailing executive decided to dump the Laser from the Olympics. This was a dumb move, dumber even than their previous decision to dump the Finn. The decision applied to both the men's and women's single hander. It was in response to a dodgy equipment evaluation process that they authorised. The World Sailing Council, which



Casey Imeneo (left) receiving her cube awards from John D'Helin for her results in the Victorian State Laser championships - first in the Women's competition and third overall.

represents sailing in every region of the globe, voted via secret ballot to overturn the executive decision 36 to 5 and to keep the world's most popular racing dinghies in Olympic sailing. Hooray for common sense.

Lasers still may have a problem. Full approval for the 2024 Games is now contingent on ILCA, the builders and trademark holders agreeing to the terms of World Sailing's new Olympic classes contract by 1 August 2019. This is not guaranteed given the ongoing dispute with the European builder.

**Volunteer help required**

Less than six months to go until the 2020 events!

The VLA is involved in running four world and two nationals championships. Over 1000 Laser sailors are expected to compete. Please consider volunteering to help the VLA run the best ever Laser world championships. Just click the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YG8D5HN>

**John d'Helin**, McCrae YC Laser representative



**CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

"A 15-knot South Westerly, a 15-knot South Westerly! My kingdom for a 15-knot South Westerly!"

Had Richard III been sailing at McCrae, he could well have used these words to summarise season 2018-19. Instead, we are left to

ponder a year during which we seemed to cop more than our fair share of fickle sailing conditions. Maybe it's just me... Nonetheless, we still managed to get around 115 skippers to start at least one heat of 22 completed in the Aggregate and Skipper of Skippers.

**Regattas**

In last year's report, Col Dods suggested that this year's programme of additional events would be minimised in recognition of the heavy workload sustained by our sailors and volunteers over the previous two seasons.

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## Captain's Report (continued)

Although we hosted no Nationals, no Worlds and no States, over the March long weekend, we still held a number of regattas:

- McCrae Catamaran Championships in November – 46\* entries
- Ronstan Australia Day Regatta in January - 86 entries
- Laser State titles in February - 72 entries
- Paper Tiger State titles in February - 20 entries
- Musto Skiff State titles in March - 18 entries

\* Entries down due to a clash with the A-Class Worlds in Hervey Bay

With the support of Ronstan, we are aiming to make the Ronstan Australia Day Regatta a permanent fixture at McCrae in January. Limiting this regatta to two days enables us to run the event every year, regardless of when the public holiday actually falls.

Both the Paper Tigers and Musto Skiffs joined in with club racing as a separate division on Saturday, before spending Sunday on their own. Sharing on-water resources made these regattas cost effective for both the class associations and the club and this is a format well worth offering in future.

In the past year, we have pitched for two significant regattas which have not gone our way – the F18 Worlds in 2020 and the Tasar Worlds in 2024. That our club can submit such creditable proposals is a testament to our culture and values and the Tasars, in particular, was a close-run thing. As a consolation prize, we will host the Tasars for their Victorian States in 2022.

This season, we look forward to hosting the Minnow Nationals in January.

### Power Boats

Overall, our fleet of power boats is in excellent condition and the Sailing Committee acknowledges our regular patrol boat crews, who all treat 'their' boats as if they were indeed their own. Jubilee's motor is approaching 1,000 hours and was under consideration for replacement. However, given there is currently no indication of any issues, the decision has been made to defer this \$9,000 expense unless and until required.

Whilst we can afford to bear the risk of not immediately replacing Jubilee's motor, the same cannot be said of the tractor, of which we have but one. Accordingly, the Sailing Committee will be looking towards replacement at the end of next season.

The only power boat which required significant unscheduled maintenance during season 2018-19 was our beloved McArthur, which twice burst a seam on its starboard tube. This is nobody's fault and is simply the result of the outdated design of this 20+ year old hull. Notwithstanding significant repairs, there is no

guarantee that McArthur won't go pop again. In addition to its dodgy tubes, McArthur's motor is also approaching 1,000 hours and its trailer has maybe one more season left in it. The Sailing Committee has therefore recommended replacing McArthur with new aluminium-hulled RIB. A decision on funding is pending a review of the club's patrol boat requirements over the next five years.

### Course Revision

Our standard course has held us in good stead for a number of years. However, there is anecdotal evidence that the ever-increasing speed of the fastest boats is leading to a corresponding increase in perceived, if not actual, risk to people and equipment, particularly around the gate. The Sailing Committee has a revised course to trial from the commencement of next season.

### Volunteers

In addition to our merry band of regular patrol boat crews, I also acknowledge those land-based volunteers who make a significant contribution to our club, including those in the tower, tractor drivers, fuel monitors, bar persons and, of course, the canteen. It takes a lot of free people-power to keep our wonderful club functioning at such a high standard. Thanks.

The revisions to the rostered swimmer program have been a success. So much so, that from next season there will be 2 sailors rostered on patrol boats each week – one swimmer and one rib crew. Having a rostered rib crew will not only make life easier for the

Sailing Committee, it will also open up the field of candidates to perform that duty. Same rules will apply. More details to follow.



### Incoming Committee

For next season, we welcome Andrew Vize to the Sailing Committee and welcome back Simon Merritt (a previous Club Captain). Andrew and Simon will be joining those of last year's cohort back for another round; namely Al Watson, Andrew Pritchard, Cam Dunwoody, Steve Floyd, Brody Riley and Louis Chapman. What a great blend of youth and experience.

Thanks also to Steve Brayshaw and Dave Loutit, who are both officially stepping down from Sailing Committee – I say "officially" because both will still be doing a couple of RO duties next year. Nice gesture.

Full details on the changes to the Sailing Instructions will be included in the first edition of The Beacon for the 2019/2020 season in September.

I look forward to seeing you all on the water next season. In the meantime, go Saints!

**Richard Nicholson**, Club Captain

