



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF McCRAE YACHT CLUB



COMMODORE'S COLUMN

Hello everyone,

Well after one of the most fickle sailing seasons weather-wise, the January regattas all went ahead as planned. The Minnow Nationals spearheaded the three regattas making January a very full calendar.

After a windy but well-received invitation race, the sailors dealt with mostly light winds for the remainder of the regatta.

The Flying Ants, lead by Adam and Lanee Beachel arrived next with 10 boats representing almost all Australian States. Once again, a very windy invitation race with Joel Beachel's Ant clocking 19 knots of boat speed! Like the Minnows, light winds followed for the duration of the regatta. Hats off to Adam Beachel for his fantastic post-race theory lessons after each day's racing.

With a short but very much needed break, the Ronstan Regatta, represented by Stephen Bradshaw was up next. Once again trying weather conditions prevailed, testing our on-water crews and sailors alike. A fantastic event with around 90 boats entered, including the Wetas (their first ever State championships) and a small fleet of Lightweight Sharpies. A huge thank you as always to ALL the wonderful McCrae Yacht Club volunteers who as usual are always there to help out, no matter the task.

These regattas don't work with out you!! THANKYOU!!!

There's still plenty of season left to enjoy our wonderful club, so get down and get involved. Hope to see you there !!!

Hasta luego

Commodore David Briggs



10 am at McCrae and another smoke-filled day for the Flying Ants.



The NT contingent for the Minnows brought their beach signs from Darwin: an inducement to stay in the boat.
Photo by Bob Cook



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CLUB CAPTAIN

A very busy January

McCrae Yacht Club hosted no less than three regattas during January 2020, and played a pivotal role in partnering with Sandringham Yacht Club in hosting a fourth.

We kicked off the month with the 42nd Australian Minnow Championships, which saw 35 Minnows racing on two courses (Open and Novice). Whilst numbers were less than expected, competitors left McCrae with smiles on their dials after a week of fun and challenging sailing conditions.

Thanks to Col Dods (PRO), Al Watson (RO) and Scott Watson (Regatta Manager) for heading up our team of magnificent volunteers both on and off the water.

Next it was the turn of the Flying Ants, who selected McCrae Yacht Club to host their 53rd National Championships. Although there were only 10 entries, these pocket rockets sure put on a show. The last time I saw that many Flying Ants in the one place I was sailing a Sabot! Thanks to Steven Floyd (RO) and his team of volunteers for giving up their precious time to notch up another successful event for our club.

This Summer sees multiple Laser regattas being held on Port Phillip Bay and Corio Bay in the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympics. During January, McCrae Yacht Club and Sandringham Yacht Club joined forces to conduct the 2020 Oceania Laser Championships, in conjunction with Sail Melbourne. Our four patrol boats were renamed 'Course 1' (Bunerong), 'Course 2' (Georgiana), 'Course 3' (McClure) and 'Rescue 1' (Jubilee) for the duration of the regatta, and assisted RO Peter Merritt in laying complex trapezoid courses and undertaking rescue duties. Whilst Peter luxuriated in the comfort of SYC's 'Endeavour' ("jam and cream with your scones, Sir"), the rest of us endured 5 days of rain and rough weather stuck out in the elements.

Why go to the effort of towing four boats to and from Sandy to assist at Sail Melbourne? From my perspective, the answer is cash - \$4,590. It's also good to show other clubs what McCrae Yacht Club can do. Make no mistake, we can set courses for Olympians and club sailors alike. A huge shout out to Bob Chalmers, Graeme Dowley, Cam Dunwoody, Peter Merritt and Jenny Merritt for representing McCrae Yacht Club with such distinction for the full 5-days of the regatta. Thanks also to Col Dods, Al Watson and Andrew Pritchard for helping out when they could.

Our final event for January 2020 was the Ronstan Australia Day Regatta, which attracted 98 entries in only its second year. Thanks to Ronstan, this year's \$40 entry fee bought two days of racing (on separate courses for monohulls and multihulls), along with a Saturday night party featuring dinner, a band and even free beer! Truly remarkable value. Thanks also to our ROs (Col Dods & Bron Evans) and to an outstanding team of on and off-water volunteers.

Keeping our club financially viable is hard yakka, and we rely heavily on our volunteers to give of their time so freely. We also count on them to do their thing come rain, hail or shine (or strong wind warning). Remember that.

Nationals results

In the lead up to Christmas, the level of enthusiasm to pack up boats and head off to Nationals was tempered somewhat by the devastating bushfires. Notwithstanding these tragic events, McCrae sailors were well represented across multiple classes at National (and World) championships. In particular, congratulations to our FIVE National Champions - Alan Riley (who went back to back in the Sabres), Craig Garmston (B14), Will Hailes (Minnow Junior), Brody Riley (Laser Radial) and Josh Baker (Windsurfer Junior).

See you on the water,

Richard Nicholson, Club Captain



Weta trimarans on the lawn at McCrae

REGATTA RESULTS:

Set out below is an impressive list (not a rogue's gallery) of McCrae sailors who finished in the Top-10 of their respective events:

A-Class Nationals at Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club	Mark Bulka	4 th
	Stephen Brayshaw	5 th
	David Brewer	6 th
	Stuart Scott	8 th
	Simon Mckeon	10 th
Taipan Nationals at Lake Bonney Yacht Club	Andrew Vize & Lachlan Vize	2 nd (4.9 sloop)
	Lachlan Cameron	4 th (4.9 cat)
Paper Tiger Nationals at Kurnell Catamaran Club	Luke Stout	2 nd
	Jason Dunsmore	4 th
	Ben Deed	8 th
i14 Worlds at Perth Dinghy Sailing Club	Scott Cunningham & David Parker	5 th (Nationals)
		8 th (Worlds)
B14 Nationals at Illawarra Yacht Club	Craig Garmston	1 st
	Guy Bancroft & David Grace	3 rd
	David Loutit & Hugo Briggs	8 th
Sabre Australian Championship at Wallaroo Sailing Club	Alan Riley	1 st
	Murray O'Brien	3 rd
Pacer Nationals at Mordialloc Sailing Club	Evelyn Floyd & Vivienne Floyd	6 th
	Jessica Vize & Anne Vize	9 th
Australian Minnow Championships at McCrae Yacht Club	Will Hailes	2 nd Open (1 st Junior)
	Oliver Bulka	10 th Open
	Emily Hailes	2 nd Novice
	Lucas Hailes	3 rd Novice
	Abigail Young	4 th Novice
Victorian Laser State Championships at Sandringham Yacht Club Radial	Brody Riley	2 nd
	Casey Imeneo	9 th
Australian Laser Championships at Sandringham Yacht Club - Radial	Brody Riley	1 st (3 rd overall)
	Casey Imeneo	9 th Female (49 th overall)
Windsurfer Australian Championships at Brighton & Seacliff Yacht Club	Josh Baker	1 st Junior

TRAINING CENTRE REPORT

Saturday Morning Sailing School

The third intake of Try Sailors began on February 1st, making the total number of 7 to 10 year olds that have been introduced to sailing, to thirty for the year. Our target is to have half of those participants convert into paying members of our beginner program. From the November and December intakes we have had six conversions from the Try Sailing groups. This is a bit below expectation so we will need to do some consideration of control of intake for next season in an attempt to find better prospects.

The Start Sailing group has now grown to thirteen which consists of the six Try sailing converts plus two from the Tackers summer program. The remainder are children of members. This group are currently being trained in the club owned Ozi Opti trainers before they obtain their own Minnows and begin learning in earnest. We all look forward to seeing the return of a significant junior sailing cohort and seeing a big fleet of blue sails out there every Saturday!

Tackers Holiday Program

During the third and fourth weeks of January we run the usual Tackers Holiday Program. The first week was full to overflowing with 26 youngsters taking part. The second week there 10 kids, but the weather fell apart during the second week which made running the program very challenging. Liam O'Brien who ran the program this year has been instructing Tackers for about five years now and he says it was the worst weather he has ever experienced during that time. Of course the following week would have been perfect!

Anyway a big thanks to Liam and all the instructors for pulling this off under very trying conditions.

McCrae Junior and Youth Development Squad (Sunday morning coaching group)

There are four young sailors in this group who show up every Sunday morning. It is fantastic to see the amazing progress that they have all made this year. Ollie Zielezna (Peter Van Hugten's grandson) has converted to the Laser 4.7 and has made huge strides forward. Jess Vize is also in the Lasers 4.7 and is showing great improvement already in a short time. Ollie Bulka is in his Minnow and recently came 10th in the Minnow Nationals and earned the title of Most Improved Sailor! Tessa Kohne who graduated to the Open Minnow fleet this year performed brilliantly to come 14th overall.

We will continue training right through until the end of April so no doubt there will be lots of improvement to come!
Adult Sail Training

The adult course continues to be run by Paul Jenkins and Michael Paynter. We have four adults currently in training with on-board instructors on the RS Quests.

Murray O'Brien, Training Centre Principal

Minnow stars, Tessa Kohne and Ollie Bulka >>>



Weta racing trimarans waiting for the wind on the course at McCrae

The Weta is, not surprisingly, a New Zealand design that is popular in the USA. A 4.4 metre craft, it can be raced one-up or two-up. The recorded top speed is 38 kph. In 2010, the Weta was awarded 'Boat of the Year' by Sailing World magazine.



JOSH BAKER AND THE WINDSURFER CHAMPIONSHIPS SA

The 43rd Windsurfer National Championships were held recently (Australia Day Weekend) at Brighton & Sea-Cliff Yacht Club, South Australia. With 116 entities it proved to be a fun and colourful well-run regatta. The major disciplines included Course racing, Slalom, Marathon and Freestyle. They even threw in an interstate stand up paddle board race - awesome fun; great weather, racing, people, excellent commentary and DJ music made for a great carnival atmosphere.

It was McCrae YC's very own Josh Baker who has taken out 1st overall Junior Champion. Great work Josh and well done!

Learn to Windsurf at McCrae

For those interested in Windsurfing, the club is offering lessons run by the very talented Jeff Owen. (Check the Club calendar for details).

State Champs at McCrae 23 February

Also coming up is the State Slalom Windsurfer Championships right here at McCrae on 23 February.

Slalom racing is intense short-course racing via a knock-out series.

So, if you want to see some awesomeness get your backside beachside on the 23rd.

Scott Munro



Josh Baker on the winner's podium



CLUB SOCIAL REPORT

Club Champions night

We had our Club Champions night on 8 February 2020 where Club Captain Richard paid tribute to all our sailors who competed in national Championships over the summer break. Outstanding results!! Congratulations to all competitors.

Presentation night

This year's Presentation Night is on 23 May 2020 at the Club.

There will be trophies, food, drinks and great music! So pop the date in your diary and organise a table of your mates- more details to come!!

Expressions of interest sought - Club social events

Expressions of interest are being sought from club members who wish to help organise and run a club social event next season.

Please contact Scott Munro 0438 900 133 if you are interested in helping



SABRE NEWS

I was looking back on my Beacon article for this time last year and just can't help but notice the very different season we have had so far. It's a bit of a sailing tragedy really! Naturally our die-hards have been out in all conditions (and as a result absolutely dominated the Sabre Nationals in S.A!) but for most of us, the weekends have been 'challenging' to say the least. Having said that, we still have an awesome turnout of Sabre sailors when the winds actually are favourable and look forward to more converts to the Sabre clan!

Check out this video from the nationals to see some great drone footage and commentary on Alan Riley's dominating win, making it two in a row. Murray O'Brien had a great regatta too, finishing third and Liam O'Brien 17th.

<https://www.facebook.com/downundersail/videos/457646848478627>

<https://www.facebook.com/sasabres/videos/2467051273533324/>

Our State Titles will be held at Mt Martha on the 15th and 16th of Feb and we are hoping for a huge turnout.

See you on the water!

Lisa 0422248851

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in being on a club committee or helping out? AGM 20 June 2020 at the Club – 4pm

Get your expressions of interest in NOW!!

The AGM later this year provides members with the opportunity to join one of the great club committees and get involved.

This includes:

General committee: The General Committee consists of the Commodore, the Vice Commodore and the Rear Commodore (also known as the "Flags"). The Secretary and Treasurer are also members of the General Committee.

The General Committee meets about 8 times a year to discuss various Club matters. Meetings usually take 2 hours. There is also work that needs to be done by committee members between meetings.

The General Committee are looking for some new people to put their hands up and join the General Committee. Specifically, we are looking for people who have a particular interest in:

- Marketing and promotion
- Communications
- Member services
 - Youth
 - New sailors/members
- Social functions and events

Please let's try and diversify the committees for the better of everyone and the club.

If you are interested, please contact Jon Knorr on 0419 116 857

Sailing committee:

The Sailing Committee run our races and look after the rescue boats. It is a great committee to be involved with. You do not need to be an active sailor to be on the Sailing Committee. A basic understanding of racing will assist, but plenty of "on the job training" is available.

If you are interested, please contact Alistair Watson on 0407 336 656

Social events and functions:

If you are interested in running any Club social functions, then this is the committee for you. Lots of fun! Meet other members!

Even if you do not want to be on a committee but feel you would like to run an event for your fellow members, get involved. Everyone will love you.

If you are interested, please contact Jon Knorr on 0419 116 857 or Scott Munro on 0438 900 133

These are some of the other positions: Bar Manager, Beacon editor, Club Coach, Yard Master, House Manager, Youth Club Captains, Membership Manager and the Training centre is always looking for assistance.

There are always plenty of jobs, both large and small around the club.

Expressions of your interest should be made to Jon Knorr on 0419 116 857.

Stay tuned for further information!

Remember it is your club, get involved and let's all try and make the club even better for future generations.

OUR SPONSORS



VLA HAILS McCRAE HEROES

With the Laser Nationals plus three Laser class world championships being run at Sandringham this summer the volunteers at Sandy needed a break. McCrae Yacht Club stepped up and volunteered to provide course boats & crews for the Sail Melbourne Laser course. 166 competitors including 104 internationals plus 50 coach boats!

The VLA is indebted to Peter Merritt (PRO), Jenny Merritt, Cam Dunwoody, Ric Nicholson, Bob Chalmers, Graham Dowley, Andrew Pritchard, Colin Dods and Alistair Watson. The club also provided course laying boats Georgiana, McClure, Jubilee and Bunerong.

Lasers are virtually indestructible and amazingly seaworthy, so the class does not have imposed wind limits. At times racing was conducted in 30 knot winds with 2-3 metre seas. The McCrae boats and crews delivered the regatta despite these adverse conditions. The Victorian Laser Association appreciates your magnificent effort.

Other McCrae members who contributed to the success of Laser 2020 deserve mention and our thanks. Melissa Imeneo helped on the registration desk for 8 days straight during the nationals and Alona Riley attended to our accounts. John Jagger organised and built the sign on-sign off system (required by World Sailing) and Geoff Walker designed and constructed a drive through system that could wash a Laser every 20 seconds. This avoided any bottle necks getting 278 boats off the water and earned special mention and praise by no less a person than Netherlands sailor Marit Bowmeester, current Olympic, World & Australian women's Laser champion. Thank you everyone.

McCrae sailors Brody Riley and Casey Imeneo will be competing in their respective world championships at Sandringham from 23 - 28 February. Come down & cheer them on. There is plenty of free car parking provided at the Trey Bit reserve adjacent to the club.

John d'Helin, Class Representative

President- Victorian Laser Association



The reason B14s have carbon-fibre masts

McCRAE WINS THE B14 NATIONALS!

McCrae Yacht Club was proudly represented by four boats at the B14 Nationals at lake Illawarra, NSW. The event was hosted by the Illawarra Yacht Club, and sailed in good conditions over 5 days in winds varying around the 8 to 18 knot regions, but mostly around 15 knots, providing excellent flatwater sailing conditions.

McCrae member Craig Garmston sailing "Snatch" with Safety Beach member Paul Fleming blitzed the field finishing 1st. Craig and Paul won 6 out of the 10 races and had to drop two 2nds for his series total of 10 points. Guy Bancroft (Bangers) and Dave Grace (Gracie) finished 3rd - not their best regatta but they did improve with each race and managed to get on the podium.

Dave Loutit and Hugo Briggs finished 8th, and were consistently in the front half of the fleet.

Ron Kane sailing with a junior from IYC Dylan Haig finished a creditable 12th in the 17 boat fleet. Overall it was a great event held at a prominent 16' Skiff club in NSW with a very even fleet and only 1 DNF in a 10 race series. The highlight was the McCrae team sticking together after racing and celebrating 'Garmos' win.

If you are looking for a class to get into, which provides fast and friendly sailing, the B14 is the boat for you. If you want to try a B14, contact 1 of the B14 sailors in the yard to organise a time for a sail, they are more than happy to help out.

Looking forward to next year, team McCrae will be heading to Sydney Harbour for the 2021 B14 Worlds to be hosted by Woolahra Sailing Club.

Ron Kane, Class Representative



The B14 winners and place getters

