



THE BEACON

McCrae Yacht Club: OFF-THE-BEACH SAILING AT ITS BEST



COMMODORE’S REPORT

It was absolutely fabulous to see so many sailors for the Ronstan Australia Day Regatta. Like so many, people were just wanting to go for a sail. It was great to have a chat with so many sailors. A big thanks to Steve Brayshaw and all the Ronstan team for

getting right behind this event. From the club so many volunteer hours went into running an event this big with special thanks to Alistair, Bron and Colin on the Sailing Committee, Mark for doing such a fantastic job as Regatta manager and having onshore so organised, Akemi and her team in the canteen and Greg for having the grounds and yard in great condition. On the official list 62 volunteers were noted and I counted another 30 – 40 people doing their bit to make the club shine.

As a club we are in a fortunate position. We:

1. Have a strong tradition and proud history.
2. Strong focus on participation by families.
3. Are one of the largest off the beach sailing clubs in the country.
4. Have high numbers of regular sailors, along with many sailing champions.
5. Are in a strong financial position with a construction project recently completed, new tractor and boats acquired.
6. Cash in our bank accounts.
7. Enjoy occupying a privileged location on public land on the beach in the heart of McCrae.

Moving forward it is time to apply our minds to forming committee’s for next year. Large input and renewed energy is required on the General Committee and the Social Committees. Four members are stepping off the General Committee after many years of service and the Social Committee requires complete renewal.

The season has had some ups and downs. The many ups: sailing, regattas, sunshine, new members, renewed clubhouse, wonderful volunteers, smiling (when we don’t have to wear masks), seeing friends, marathon, BBQs, Kids having fun, beach games, Commodores team winning the cricket, sail training, new rescue boat and so much more that we take for granted as it is just part of being a member of McCrae Yacht Club. The downs are pretty much all to do with COVID so let’s hope a solution is found.

See you soon,

Jon Knorr, Commodore



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CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

I was hoping to write this after the successful completion of the Sabre State Championships, but unfortunately COVID got in the way again! After a slow start, the season has been going from strength to strength, albeit with a few hiccups.

Laser Iso Regatta

The Laser Iso held in the first week of January was a fantastic event. A number of our younger members joined the coaching before the regatta – it is great to see a McCYC Laser 4.7 fleet building again.

Congratulations to Casey Imeneo for showing the Radial fleet how it is done with seven bullets. Ollie Zielezna had a very consistent regatta in the 4.7 and is starting to put pressure on the front end of the fleet which is great to see. Congratulations also to Jess, Ollie B, Thomas, Tessa and Kynan for competing in their first Laser regatta.

It speaks volumes of the regard in which McCrae is held that we attracted 47 sailors from a single class to a one-off non-Association regatta.

A big thank you to all the volunteers at this regatta, they got straight back into the swing of things after a long break. A special thanks to our Race Officer Peter Merritt for agreeing to run the event – fortunately for us his prior commitment at the Australian Laser Champs had been postponed!

Ronstan Australia Day Regatta

With four days, 155 yachts, and 200 sailors, that was a big one! Quite possibly the biggest off-the-beach regatta in Australia this year.

While the wind didn't do what we would have liked on the first two days, the superb onshore atmosphere helped dull the pain a bit. Once the wind did come in, we were treated to champagne sailing conditions which more than made up for the earlier frustration.

I must acknowledge the efforts of the on- and off-water volunteers who generously gave their time during this regatta and helped make it the success that it was. There are very few clubs in the country which have the resources and capability to pull off an event like that – and we could not do it without you. Special acknowledgement must be given to the PRO Col Dods, CRO Bronwyn Evans, Regatta Manager Mark O'Brien and Canteen Manager Akemi O'Brien. This group put in a huge amount of behind the scenes work and planning. Lastly, and most importantly, a note of thanks must go to Steve Brayshaw, who put in a huge effort on behalf of Ronstan. Without him, the event would not happen.

Twilight Races

The twilight races through January and February have not been well attended this year (if at all). These are unlikely to be included in the Sailing Program next season. However, the racing between Christmas and

New Year seemed quite popular so may make an appearance again.

Courses

The addition of Alpha and Bravo Courses seems to be working well, and provides a lot more flexibility to the Sailing Committee when running championships concurrently with club sailing or when there are fewer volunteers available than normal. Please let me know if you have any feedback – although I cannot help if you don't read the roundings before racing!

Live Streaming

You may have noticed recently that some of our sailing has been livestreamed to Facebook. We have invested in a GoPro camera which can be mounted onto the committee boats. This can be great publicity for the club, and people on the beach can watch the racing – just remember the camera may be rolling as you sail by so put on a good show and be careful about any advice that you may give!

Hopefully we get back to normal very soon. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any queries or feedback.

Alistair Watson, Club Captain



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TRAINING CENTRE REPORT
Saturday Morning Sailing School

Training Centre activities did not commence until the first week of December but we have very busy since then!

The Try Sailing groups from the local Primary schools continue with intakes in December and February of

approximately ten kids in each month.

The next level is the 'learn to sail' group in the club training Optis which currently has ten kids enrolled. We also have a growing Minnow fleet now with nine students enrolled which we all thrilled to see!

Live in Coaching Camp

From the 27 December we ran a three day Live-in Coaching Camp for our junior sailors. The camp was headed by Liam O'Brien and Evelyn Floyd. There were a total of seven participants who all spent lots of time on the water improving their skills and having lots of fun.

Tackers Holiday Program

We ran two weeks of the program again this year and fortunately the weather was better than last! We had a group of sixteen for week one and twelve for the second week. Bookings were very slow early on then all of a sudden with a couple of days to go it filled up!

Thanks to our lead instructors Liam and Evelyn supported by Ollie Zielezna and Josh Baker.

Sunday Squad Coaching

Sunday mornings is for the older kids which has turned into a Laser 4.7 group of four or five.

We have seen some massive improvement in skill level and confidence from all who attend.

Introduction to Windsurfing

This course continues during February on Sunday mornings and has attracted a nice little group of mainly ladies led by Jeff Owen with Scott Watson.

Adult Introduction to Sailing

This year we continue with the small group 'instructor on board' concept using the RS Quests. So far, six adults have entered the course. The next step is to get them all into their own boats!

Murray O'Brien, Training Centre Principal



FROM THE CANTEEN MANAGER

Hello members,

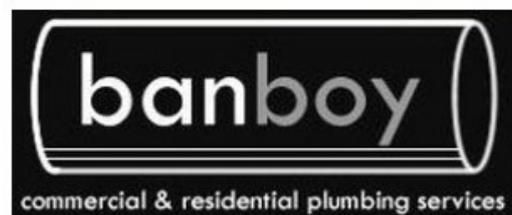


I would like to thank the members who showed interest to help at the canteen and roll making for this season. Some of them might be wondering why we don't have the canteen/roll making roster for this season. The reason is we have been following the government recommendation of Covid safe plan and one of them is not to mix up volunteers. That is why you haven't seen any roster this season. We have been lucky enough to have a few people happy to take turns and help with the canteen and roll making through this season.

Also as much as we would like to hold a social dinners, unfortunately the Covid restrictions and the weather hasn't been kind enough for us to hold one yet. We are still hoping to do something if the opportunity comes up so watch out for the weekly news and looking forward to seeing you soon.

Regards,

Akemi O'Brien



MEMBERSHIP REPORT



We welcome the following members who have joined the Club this season. It's lovely to see a few old faces return to the Club after many years doing other things and bringing their families with them.

Please make the new members welcome if you see them around the Club. At this stage I don't know if/when we will be holding a new members welcome function this season as all our social functions are a in limbo.

To those new members please come to the Club as often as you can and make yourself known to the Committee and other members.

Following are a list of the new members and where possible I have included the type of boat being sailed. I apologise in advance if I don't have that information or have missed anyone.

- Anthony & Julie Cook - Couple - Anthony is sailing a Taipan Sloop with Greg Newman
- Miles Millward & Julia Bull - Couple - A Class
- Mark and Debbie Lainson - Couple - RS 100
- Ashley Dugan - Senior - A Class
- Richard Jackson - Secondary member
- Kristian and Andrea Johannessen with Edward and James - Family - Tasar
- Mark and Bec Yeats with Poppy, Evie and Mabel - Family
- Kyle Ross and Phoebe Skinns - Couple - Int Moth
- Dr. Derry Rogers & Joy Wilson - Couple - Hobie Tiger
- Simon Henbest & Tina Beltramin - Couple - RS Aero 7
- Molly Planck - Sailing School
- Peter Ellis - Secondary - RS Aero 7
- Luke Mairs & Isabelle Diebold - Couple -RS Aero 9
- Iain and Nikki Brice with daughter Agnes - Family
- Heidi Johnson & son Louis have joined Tim Morris in a family membership
- Paul & Sally Woodbridge with Kynyan, Mia and Bronte - Family - Kayak
- Chris & Jessica Jarman with Milly and Spencer - Family - Pacer
- Clifford & Cara Bodsworth with Bella and Clifford D - Family - Bella and Clifford have joined the Sailing School.
- Scott and Rosalie Dalziel with Mckenzie and Charlee - Family
- James Moore - Secondary Junior - Minnow
- Samuel Moore - Secondary Junior - Minnow
- Wesley & Olivia Miles with Ashley & Charles - Family
- John and Christine Nigro - L/H Couple
- Peter Lambden and Joanne Mortimore - L/H couple with kayaks
- Michael & Madeleine Tidball with Cooper and Lola - L/H Family
- Michael & Shaye Clarke with Leo and Ruby - L/H Family
- Rick & Jennifer Dodd - L/H Couple - Rick has joined the Patrol boat team.
- Sonia Guerra - L/H Single – Windsurfer

Enjoy the rest of the season.



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Rebuilding the McCrae racing fleet via the Laser 4.7 pathway

Our 4.7 fleet is growing. Oliver Zielezna and Jess Vize have been joined this year by Tessa Kohne and Oliver Bulka. There are 2 or 3 others looking seriously for boats. Hopefully by the end of this season McCrae will have a fleet of 5 or 6 racing.

The Victorian Laser Association (VLA) loaned the club 3 x 4.7s for use by the sailing school during December and January. Use of these boats was managed by Murray O'Brien to successfully transition the young sailors from Minnows to the bigger boat. In addition, Tom McCracken from the adult learn-to-sail group and Hugo Watson's friend Ty Woodbridge used the Association boats on several occasions. Critical mass generates new entrants.

The transitioning dilemma

Young sailors at 45-50kg are sizing and/or ageing out of junior classes. A decision needs to be made about the next boat purchase. About this time in their lives great changes are happening, perhaps starting high school with a host of new sporting and social opportunities opening. If the boat purchase decision is left too long the interest in sailing can be lost for ever.

Clubs like ours need to proactively manage the transition process. Clubs have a 3- or 4-year sail training investment in these young sailors. For many it is not easy to transition from a 30 kg boat to a boat that is much heavier than their own body weight. We need to guide them through transition or run the risk of losing them.

The Laser, at 58 kg fully rigged is the lightest of the AS sponsored youth classes. It is also a single hander which makes it easier for learning the necessary boat handling skills. For these reasons, many clubs in Australia and around the world transition their young sailors via the Laser 4.7 pathway.

The VLA with its '4.7 Solidarity' program helps clubs like McCrae with access to Association-owned boats, qualified coaching assistance and advice for parents purchasing a Laser.

Any club members seeking advice on Lasers should contact John Jagger or me.

John D'Helin, Club Laser Representative



Above: B14s rigging-up in the yard on Day 1 of the Ronstan McCrae YC Australia Day regatta.

Below: Scott Cunningham and Pat O'Brien leading The Bandit from NSW, at the Ronstan Regatta.



MCCRAE B14 REPORT

The B14s have been relatively quiet this season at McCrae, with both the Worlds and the Nationals in Sydney cancelled due to Covid.

So, the Ronstan Regatta became a must-do regatta for the Victorian fleet which incorporated it into the B14 State Titles for the 2020/21 season. Eleven boats were entered, with an entry from NSW, which was a big effort due to the border rules imposed on interstate travellers.

The top of the fleet enjoyed close racing with Craig Garmston and Louis Chapman coming out on top and going back-to-back state champions. Guy Bancroft sailing with Dave Grace finished 2nd and Scotty Cunningham sailing with Pat O'Brien finishing 3rd - a great effort with a rookie crew.

Anyone wanting to have a go on a B14 contact myself or Louis Chapman for further information.

Ron Kane, Club B14 Class Representative

