



THE BEACON

McCRAE YACHT CLUB: OFF THE BEACH SAILING AT ITS BEST



COMMODORE'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

Congratulations to everyone for making last season a happy and successful one. Everyone working together to keep our club a safe place to visit during Covid meant our season was fabulous. I am looking forward to the coming season being less restrictive and more normal than we have known for the past few years.

Our Presentation night/60th Birthday celebration was a great success and I loved seeing so many of you especially the young families come and support the event. A big shout out to Peter Merritt for hosting the 60th activities and to Akemi for co-ordinating all the details.

Your committees are now working behind the scenes pulling together the program for next season. We have the Taipan Nationals scheduled for early January and the Ronstan Regatta back for 3 days over Australia Day. These Regattas are important for revenue for the Club, they also take a lot of resources to make them run smoothly so if you can help at any time, please don't be shy to get involved, we would love your help in any capacity.

An email has recently gone out with vacant volunteer positions, please consider putting your hand up and spreading the load.

I hope all your winter boat maintenance is coming along in readiness for next season it will be here before we know it.

Stay warm and enjoy some down time over winter. See you all soon. **Bronwyn, Commodore**



The happy throng at the combined Awards Night and 60 year celebration



TRAINING CENTRE PRINCIPAL'S THOUGHTS

I spend a great deal of time considering where our beloved sport of sailing is at and what the best methods are for introducing new families to it. The 1950s and 1960s were a heyday for sailing and the story of how and why sailing took off as such a popular pastime is a really interesting one. Looking back at history I also wonder what we can learn from the past to help with our

future direction.

What were the main drivers of the sailing boom of that era? Certainly, the invention of plywood and stitch and glue construction were a part of it, as well as a population which was on average more adept at woodworking than present. For whatever reason, the returned servicemen seemed to be attracted to messing around in boats and mess around in them they did! Pretty soon the summer beaches were lined with small sailing boats of all shapes and sizes and taking a home-built boat away on summer holidays to the beach was part of the standard family holiday kit.

Those first sailors gathered, formed friendships, and pretty soon sailing clubs began to spring up in nearly every town with a reasonable bit of sailing water nearby. They leased land, built clubhouses and gathered equipment to run races. Sailing was off and running in a big way.

Australia's involvement in the America's Cup through the 1960s 70s and 80s kept sailing well and truly in the mainstream newspapers and on the television. At one point, sailing had the second biggest sporting participation in the country next to fishing!

Even though Australia's success in terms of Olympic success has grown, the sport has shrunk considerably during the same period. The question is why? What are the societal forces which have made sailing less attractive to the populace?

Whatever the answers maybe it is clear that our peak body Australian Sailing doesn't know and/or can't do anything about it. In spite of all the programs, staff, courses, conferences and surveys, they have been unable to arrest the decline in participation. No doubt there is a confluence of contributing factors. The reasons are complex.

I don't know the answers, but I am sure there are answers, we just haven't worked them out yet.

Murray O'Brien
Training Centre Principal



The last sailing day at McCrae 2021-2022



THE CLUB IS HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM OUR SPONSORS. FULL CONTACT DETAILS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE.



FORESHORE RE-VEGETATION AT MCCRAE

To further improve our beautiful vegetation on the McCrae foreshore a combined working bee comprising members from our Club and the Friends of McCrae Foreshore was held over two weekends in early April.

The aim was to remove weeds between our Club and the lifesaving building. With the weeds removed the natural vegetation will have more daylight and water to enable natural revegetation to take place. The work was supervised by a professional bushland restorer working with our Shire.

The result was a huge pile of weeds in our trailer park for mulching by the shire. The next project is to start on the foreshore to the west of the Club. It would be great if in the future more Club members would volunteer to further reduce the workload to protect our wonderful natural foreshore which surrounds our Club.

Please look out for information regarding our next working bee.

Neil and Carol Wilson



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CD Motor Group

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- o Very sound and stiff hull – no cracks or leaks
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- o 2 radial sails – one near new
- o 2 full rig sails – one near new
- o Turbo vang system
- o Carbon tiller
- o Spare centre board
- o All spars, foils & lines in very good condition
- o Top boat cover and foils bag
- o Beach trolley
- o Road trailer (unregistered)

\$3,250 Rob Bartlett 0412 311 911

WANTED

A Minnow centre board for a boat being restored for the Sailing School. If you have one in the back of the garage then please contact Gillian Simonson.
[gillian@bigpong.net.au]



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

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Hello members,

We would like to work on recruiting volunteers during our quiet time. Here is the list of the positions for which we need the **regular** volunteers. Some positions will be in a group so that you take turns to do the duty. You will be instructed how to do the job before the season starts so that you know exactly what to do when you are on duty.

McCrae Yacht Club has a history of being one of the amazing clubs where the majority of the jobs are done by volunteers. This is an aspect of the club we would like to continue. If you would like to be a part of it, please send an email back to Alona at admin@mccraeyc.com.au indicating which job you are interested in, then someone will contact you to discuss further.

Vacant Volunteer Positions

Position	How Many People?	How often?	Brief Job Description
Clothing	1	At your convenience	Advertise during the season. Check the stock and re-order as necessarily.
BBQ Kitchen	1	Weekly during the season	Make sure the kitchen and shed is tidy. Re-fill BBQ Bottle. Look after lost property and sun cream.
Roll Making (Group)	4 ++	When you are on duty	Roll making on Saturday mornings and during regattas. Make sure the upstairs kitchen is tidy.
Canteen Help (Group)	4 ++	When you are on duty	Assist Akemi from 11:30-13:30 on Saturdays and during regattas.
House Duty (Group)	4 ++	When you are on duty	See below for job descriptions.
Adult Sail Training	4 or 5	4 times a year	Instruct for 3 hours per session. Need to be a competent sailor.
Saturday Morning Sail Training Host	General Committee ++	When you are on duty	Greet and engage with parents from try sailing and assist them with Integration into club and sailing life.
Instructor (Group)	4 or 5	Saturday mornings	Sailing instructions for Saturday mornings.
Sailing for Schools (Group)	5	Some week-days during summer	Reignite and operate the sailing for schools program.
Got special skills??			Happy to donate your time to use your skills for anything to promote sailing activities? Please let us know.