

## **Training Committee Report 2020/21**

Given the situation our state was in when we were planning the 2020/21 season, we are very pleased with what we were able to achieve, ending up with 32 junior and youth entered into our Saturday morning and coaching programs by the end of the season.

The most heartening thing for me personally is the growth in the Minnow fleet. There are now 12 kids in Minnows of their own which is something that we have not seen for many years. In fact it could be twenty years since we have seen such numbers! These kids are just getting to the level where they can race and it is the Training Committee's greatest hope that somewhere around the middle of next season we will once again have an active and large junior racing fleet.

### **Strategic Learning Methodology**

We introduced this program in the 2019/20 season which was cut short at an extremely critical juncture. We had just nurtured a good number of children to the point where the next step was the purchase of a Minnow. I believe that had the coronavirus issue not come along then we would have been able to capture a good number of new kids but our momentum was lost.

We began from scratch again this season with the 'Try Sailing' four week free trial being offered to local Primary school children between the ages 7 and 10 years. The best source of participants seems to be Red Hill Consolidated School and Dromana Primary School.

Our advertising for the Try Sailing started late due to the uncertainty around opening up with COVID 19 restrictions still in place which may have affected us from a retention perspective.

As a sport we are competing for attention against the likes of basketball, netball, soccer, and a myriad of other activities. We found that a number of families had signed up for other sports, and although really enjoyed their sailing experience were already committed to some other activity. Our aim is to retain five out of every ten kids who join our Try Sailing. We are only retaining two from ten, so we will have to make some changes to our marketing and communication strategy in order to get the retention which have been proven achievable by the experience in other states.

### **New OziOptis on the way**

The Training Committee took a decision to increase the club owned OziOpti fleet from the current fourteen by another six to take the total to twenty boats at our meeting in April.

With the current program fourteen boats is not enough to cover numbers for both the Try Sailing group and the learn to sail groups. We found ourselves having to improvise on a number of occasions which was not ideal when trying to offer a high quality program.

The General Committee agreed to the purchase of six extra Ozi Optis at the full price, however we applied for and were fortunate to receive a special offer made via Australian Sailing from Whitworths Marine and Ozi Opti. This means we will be able to purchase our OziOptis at half the normal price!!! The deposit has been paid and we are awaiting delivery sometime in July!

### **Sailboarding**

We have a renewed interest in sailboarding at our club thanks to the efforts of Jeff Owen, Scott Watson and Shane Baker. We have committed to purchasing three new, wider more stable boards which are easier for beginners. The current very old second hand club owned boards are original Windsurfer brand boards which are just too narrow.

We will run more windsurfing courses next season, so please watch the website for details if you are interested.

## **Sunday morning Laser 4.7 group**

We have a nice group of six youth sailors in the laser 4.7 class at the moment. Ollie Zielezna is the most experienced, showing some great results at the Victorian Championship but breaking his ankle at football soon after which brought his sailing season to an abrupt halt!

Tess and Tom Kohne have been doing winter training with former Olympian Krystal Weir, so we look forward to seeing how much they've improved when we start again in October!

## **First Aid and Powerboat Instruction**

Let's hope that the coming season allows us to put on a full suite of courses which includes the usual First Aid and Powerboat Handling Certificates and Responsible Service of Alcohol which are usually held before the season gets underway. Once dates are set please watch for notification of and entry to these courses.

## **Thank you to all our dedicated team!**

The Training Centre runs something nearly every week during the sailing season. It is a busy program which requires a very dedicated band of volunteers and parents.

I will try to name everybody here but please forgive me if I miss out on anybody! It's a big team!

Administrator: Margaret Crossland

Host and beach support: Jenny Mairs

Instructors: Scott Watson, Evelyn Floyd, Donovan Bailey, Liam O'Brien, Jeff Owen, Shane Baker, Kate Dunwoody and Anna O'Brien

Assistant Instructors: Ollie Zielezna, Ollie Bulka, Josh Baker, Finn Loader, Hugo Watson, Ky Woodbridge and Wes Miles

Bosun: Glen Koffyberg, Bill Mairs

Rescue Boat Set up and launch: Michael Johannessen and Jamie Caithness

Adult Sail Training: Alan Riley, Graham Riley and Geoff Walker

Committee and moral support: John d'Helin

Canteen: Akemi O'Brien

Murray O'Brien

Training Centre Principal