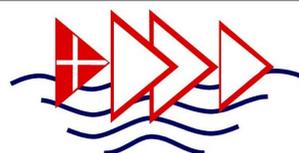


# The Muppetler

Autumn 2023



Albert Sailing Club Inc.

# EDITORIAL

*Madeline Paul*

I would like to start by thanking the members who have contributed articles, content and images for this edition. A reminder to all members that we have our upcoming Annual General Meeting at 5 pm on Saturday 13th May 2023 (more details on page 5) and a call out for committee members in 2023-24.

This edition has some really great articles and I would like to congratulate Mark Snell on his great sailing in the Sonata Yacht Association Annual Regatta, Hamish on his continued success, and Tom King on his induction into the hall of fame. This feature includes sailing highlights, both on and off the lake, news about the club, and upcoming activities and events for Autumn.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Mudpuddler. Stay well and happy reading!

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## CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

[www.albertsc.org.au](http://www.albertsc.org.au)



For updates from the Club, follow us on Facebook or register on our website for our weekly Snippets e-mail.

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## 2022-23 ASC COMMITTEE

Office	Name	Office	Name
Commodore	Rod Thomas	Committee	Don McKenzie
Vice Commodore	Greg Ryan		Peter Bennell
Rear Commodore	[Vacant]		Graeme Blunt
Immediate Post Commodore	Cindy Tilbrook		Steve Dunn
Secretary	Tim Falkiner		Bettina Azzopardi
Treasurer	Joe Chircop		Madeline Paul
Club Captain	Paul Farrell		

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## CONTENTS

Pages	Detail	Pages	Detail
3-4	Commodore's Report	10	Hamish's ILCA Laser Campaign
5	Notice of Annual General Meeting	11-12	Between Two Continents: A Voyage to the Remote
5-6	Volunteers and Volunteering at ASC	13	Sonata Yacht Association Annual Regatta
7	ASC Strategic Plan & Child Safety	14	ASC Summer Championships
8	Sports Club Parking Permits, Hiring the ASC Clubrooms & Boats and Equipment	15	Hall of Fame Induction for Tom King
9	Voyages of Second Wind	16	Autumn Roster

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently asked questions from Current and New Members are provided under the FAQ tab under the top level "The Club" tab on [www.albertsc.org.au](http://www.albertsc.org.au). The FAQ's cover subjects such as: club duty requirements; access to the Lake; car parking; boat racking; key to the club, car parking, bringing visitors to the club; and use of club training boats.

# COMMODORE'S REPORT

Rod Thomas

Autumn has come, and we have another atypical season with a drier than normal first month of Autumn and fewer warm windless days. This follows a dry summer for the South Melbourne area which was close to two thirds of the 10 year average (86mm against an average of 128mm). The dry conditions combined with higher reported evaporation rates has led to a steady decline in the water level in Albert Park Lake from a maximum in early December to a level where club sailing and operation of powerboats was close to coming to a halt in mid March. There was a small improvement in the second half of March with some rain on three half days. Let's hope for good rains and an improvement in lake conditions in April, which BOM records show has been one of the wetter months on average over the last ten years. Updates will be provided in our Thursday Snippets emails and Albert Sailing Club Facebook.

**On the sailing front** in the first three months there have been a couple of strong wind days and generally smaller fleets sailing in Saturday afternoon club races. Otherwise the club has had a good few months of sailing activity.

- The club's Summer Learn to Sail program across three Sundays and a Saturday morning was fully subscribed with 16 participants, 13 of whom were new members.
- Short informal races at 11am have been trialled and been well attended by our newer and less experienced members sailing a mix of club Zests, Sabres, and the Pacer of the Faulkner – Candeira family. We will aim for another in April, and then when the Spring season starts in October.
- Ten juniors sailed the school holiday session in late January in club Zests and plastic Ozi Optis.



**Summer Learn to Sail Program**

We have been providing club Zests and plastic Ozi Optis for members to use on club sailing days, with approval by a club flag officer on the day. Graduates of our Learn to Sail programs have use at no fee for six or so sessions after completion of the course. Otherwise weekly hire fees have been suspended since the start of the year. They will be reinstated in the next few months to cover insurance, maintenance and other training boat fleet costs. Our four club kayaks continue to be available for members to use, with the requirement to sign in and sign out in the log book located in the noticeboard panel in front of the Men's changerooms.

A number of members have sailed in national and Victorian class championships events, Hamish Gilson had second placings in the Australian Youth and Victorian Open championships for the ILCA6/ Laser Radial class, and Ron Fergusson finished second, with a win in the final heat race, in the Aero7 Victorian championships which had a fleet of 16 boats.

**On the social front** the highlight was the Festive Season dinner and social evening held in our clubrooms mid December. Over 50 people enjoyed the catered spit roast food and the novelty segments organised by our Social Organiser Cindy Tilbrook. We have also had a few BBQ's, including lunchtime BBQs following the last sessions of our Spring and Summer Learn to Sail courses, and a couple after Twilight Sailing sessions.



**ASC 2022 Christmas Function**

**A big Welcome to new members** to Albert Sailing Club. We had 12 new members join for the Spring Learn to Sail program, 13 for the Summer Learn to Sail, and two other family memberships and a number of new senior members since October. We look forward to their involvement in club activities on Albert Park Lake and in our clubrooms.

*Continued on next page*

# COMMODORE'S REPORT

Rod Thomas

**Finally, the club's Annual General Meeting** is scheduled as a face to face meeting 5pm to 6pm on Saturday 13th May, with an informal meal to follow. There will be an option to join remotely with a Zoom option, with physical attendance preferred. The Notice of Meeting is elsewhere in this Mudpuddler. Please consider how you can assist with the operation of the club in 2023/24 be that in a committee or a non-committee role. We have some turnover in the club's general committee and need up to 4 people currently not on the committee to nominate. Further information on club roles and tasks in this newsletter, on our club website or speak to a current club committee member.

## **UPCOMING AT ASC**

6 May Winter sailing season on Saturdays at 2pm until mid September.

The popular Victorian Optimist class Association winter training program at Albert Sailing Club. In previous years two 6 to 8 weeks programs spanning mid May to end August. As at late March details to be finalised, with start date effected if Lake water level low. Expect details to be released on VIODA website mid to late April.

24/25 June ASC's annual Top of the Lake Regatta. For sailors from Albert Sailing Club, Albert Park Yacht Club and visiting sailors from other Victorian and some years interstate clubs. If not sailing we will need volunteers for on water and land based clubs with a call out for volunteers from mid May.

7-9 July Albert Park Yacht Club's Wintersail junior coaching Regatta Details on [www.apyc.org.au](http://www.apyc.org.au).

## **Boats for sale**

There is a couple of older plus wooden boats in the club boatyard which are for sale at a bargain basement price. There is a Sabre and a Mirror. Both approximately 40 years old in fair condition. Could be sailed as is in the short term, but could do with some TLC sanding and painting. Also an old standard rig Laser with older foils, suitable as a holiday house boat.

Other boats for sale on club noticeboard on sliding gate in front of Men's Changerooms.

To enquire speak to Graeme Blunt or send an email to [commodore@albertsc.org.au](mailto:commodore@albertsc.org.au).



## **POWERBOAT DRIVERS NEEDED**

Each club sailing day we have a powerboat roster which has between 1 and 3 people with a powerboat licence. We need some more people with a powerboat licence for rostering on once every two or three months or more frequently if someone wants more often.

## **Do you have a current Victorian Powerboat licence and are available but not on our current roster ?**

Contact Jack Woods with your details via [admin@albertsc.org.au](mailto:admin@albertsc.org.au) and he will forward your details onto Ron Lackington who is our duty roster coordinator.

**If your don't have a Victorian powerboat licence** it is not difficult to acquire the required knowledge. For a short video and details on obtaining power boat licence go to <https://transportsafety.vic.gov.au/maritime-safety/recreational-boating/licensing>. You can study the relevant Handbook then undertake the multiple choice test at a VicRoads Centre.

There are also accredited providers for face to face and/or Zoom style online courses plus assessment which take around 4 to 5 hours all up. Adam's Boat courses is a Victorian based online provider used by one of our newer members.

ASC will reimburse members for costs of theory course, assessment and the first 2 years of 5 year licence. We can also provide practical on water skills development.

Contact a club flag officer (Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Club Captain) to discuss options and opportunities.

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Albert Sailing Club*

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws, of the Annual General Meeting of Albert Sailing Club Inc. The meeting will be held at 1 Aquatic Drive at 5 pm on Saturday 13th May 2023.

Meeting information, Committee Nomination forms, and Proxy Forms are available on the club website at [ASC Annual General Meeting](#). The report of the Committee and Financial Statements will be available on the website by 6 May 2023.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, you may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on your behalf. See the instructions on the Proxy Form at the Meeting Information page on our website.

Although it is not a requirement, in order to assist in organising the meeting it is requested that, if you plan to attend the meeting, please notify the Secretary via email to [secretary@albertsc.org.au](mailto:secretary@albertsc.org.au).

A general Question and Answer/Discussion session will follow once the AGM has concluded, followed by an informal dinner (lasagne, salad and dessert).

Please let [admin@albertsc.org.au](mailto:admin@albertsc.org.au) know if you will be attending the dinner following the meeting.

**Tim Falkiner, Secretary**  
([secretary@albertsc.org.au](mailto:secretary@albertsc.org.au))

## AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Commodore
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 14 May 2022
4. Annual Report of the Committee: available on the website after 6 May 2023
5. Financial Accounts and Report of the Treasurer: available on the website after 6 May 2023
6. Election of members to the following positions: Nomination forms for Committee Positions will be found on the meeting information page on the club website
  - i. Commodore
  - ii. Vice Commodore
  - iii. Rear Commodore
  - iv. Club Captain
  - v. Secretary/Public Officer
  - vi. Treasurer
  - vii. Eight Members of the General Committee
7. Meeting Closure

Date: 10 April 2022

# VOLUNTEERING AT ALBERT SAILING CLUB

*Rod Thomas and Greg Ryan*

As a volunteer run club we need members, both long term and newer members, to come forward and commit to undertaking tasks on a regular, semi regular or ad hoc basis.

The overall management of the club rests with the general committee which consists of 6 club officers and up to 8 committee members.

## Flag and Club Officers

Commodore	Vice Commodore	Rear Commodore
Club Captain	Treasurer	Secretary

The club's general committee meet monthly, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, with a mix of face to face and online 'Zoom' meetings.

The areas of involvement of the 8 general committee positions are flexible according to club needs and individual skill sets. Important areas include:

Membership management; Training; Communications; Government and non-Government grants; Building Improvements; Social Activities; Special club Events such as Discover Sailing Days.

There are other roles and tasks that are important to the functioning of the club undertaken by club members not on general committee or by committee member such as: duty roster coordinator, training instructors, website maintenance and development.

An overview of the roles of the Club Officer, and some of the other key club roles is on [www.albertsc.org.au](http://www.albertsc.org.au) The Club/Officers and Committee tab.

We need to share the workload in operating our club. Speak to a current club committee officer if you could be available to be nominated to the 2023/24 club committee or take on a non-committee role. The Nomination for Committee Position form is on [www.albertsc.org.au](http://www.albertsc.org.au) The Club/Annual General Meeting tab.

# WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS

*Madeline Paul*

The Albert Sailing Club would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank the volunteers that have and continue to support the club. These contributions take a myriad of different forms, from washing down swan deposits on the launching ramp, to supporting with race management in the club tower. Our members are the reason that our club is able to continue running, and I am personally thankful as it provides me with an opportunity to sail on Albert Park Lake and be surrounded by a caring and supportive community of ASC members.



This edition would like to highlight our Race Management crews, in particular Lesley, Sue, Brenda, and Steve L, our regular tower crew, and also Kevin who has been constantly washing swan deposits off the launching ramp.

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## HALL HIRE HELPERS WANTED - EARN SOME POCKET MONEY

*Cindy Tilbrook*

Are you available from time to time to be present at the club during periods of hall hire?

Our new hall hire policy requires an adult club member of > 12 months standing to be present during all periods of hall hire, to 'meet and greet', assist with opening and closing the club, ensuring that the hire terms and conditions are met, inspect the premises at the end of the hire period, and to be available to answer any queries or assist with any issues that arise.

in addition to the actual hall hire fee, the hirer will be charged an hourly 'member attendance fee' for your presence, and you would be reimbursed 80% of that member attendance fee (in the range of \$25 - \$40 per hour).

If you have your RSA certificate, so much the better. There may then also be opportunities for the club to provide bar services to the hirer and your hourly reimbursement would then increase to reflect this.

For more information, or to register your interest in helping the club in this manner, please email Cindy on [admin@albertsc.org.au](mailto:admin@albertsc.org.au).



# ASC STRATEGIC PLAN

Greg Ryan

Hi everyone, as many of you will be aware the ASC has been updating our vision, mission and strategic plan. This has involved discussions and interviews with a number of different member groups including families, female sailors, and long standing members. As a result, we have a new high-level strategy. This will be supported by a detailed implementation plan for the next 24-36 months, which would be updated every 2 years. Given we are just about to elect a new Committee the current Committee thought that we should wait until the new Committee is elected to finalise and release the Strategic Plan. This will then form the basis for our submission to Parks Victoria for the renewal of our lease in 2024.

I thought I should share the key elements of the Strategic Plan:

## Club Vision

*Melbourne's inner city sail centre - enjoyable, safe sailing for all on Albert Park Lake.*

## Club Mission

*To encourage and support enjoyable all year round recreational and competitive dinghy sailing and training for people of all ages in an inclusive social environment at Albert Park Lake, a safe and convenient inner Melbourne location. Seeking to partner with other compatible groups into the future.*

In terms of goals, over the next 5 years we are seeking to achieve the following:

## For membership

- A thriving, engaged and supportive membership that grows each year.

## Volunteers

- Strong support from the members for the Committee, support roles, events, and to mentor new sailors.

## Participation

- Growing participation for our racing fleet, social events, regattas and learn to sail.

## Upgrade and improve facilities

- Short term – install lift, family change room, upstairs office and store room.
- Medium to Long Term – Upgrade galley & bar, changerooms, potentially function room and facilities over boatyard.

## Finances

Maintain our strong financial status, supported by external grants.

If you have any questions or would like further information on the strategic plan please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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# ASC IS A CHILD SAFE ORGANISATION

Albert Sailing Club

The Victorian Government introduced updated Child Safety Standards in July 2022 which all sporting clubs and not for profit organisations need to follow.

The Albert Sailing Committee has been addressing governance requirements. All members and visitors have a duty of care in ensuring that all children who participate in club activities and/or visit the club are at all times safe and have appropriate advice and actions available if they do not feel safe.

Our Albert Sailing Club CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT can be found on The Club/Child Safety tab on [www.albetsc.org.au](http://www.albetsc.org.au)

Don McKenzie and Bettina Azzopardi have been appointed as the club's Child Safety Contact Persons.

Contact Don or Bettina directly to discuss any matters regarding Child Safety, the Child Safety Standards or club Child Safety processes or email them via [childsafety@albertsc.org.au](mailto:childsafety@albertsc.org.au).



# SPORTS CLUB PARKING PERMITS

*Albert Sailing Club*

Do you have a Parks Victoria Parking Permit that needs renewing or do you visit the club 15 times per year or more and don't have one of the Parking Permits?

Yearly and half yearly Sports Club parking permits are available for parking in the Albert Park Reserve from Parks Victoria for all categories of ASC club membership. The current annual fee is \$70.90 with half rate for half year or concession permit.

Details and forms which include details on how to lodge are available on <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/albert-park/things-to-do/car-parking-in-albert-park>.

The application requires either a Form stamped with 'Albert Sailing Club', available upstairs at ASC on a club sailing Saturday or the non stamped form with a copy of receipt for current ASC membership. An acceptable receipt can be obtained by logging in with your email address and a password on <https://albertsailingclub.wildapricot.org/> and selecting and printing My Profile. The My Profile should show Active member with Renewal due on 01 Oct 2024. Sports Club Parking Permit Conditions on the reverse side of the application form should be read and followed. A permit is for a specific car and must be displayed on the left side of the car windscreen. Weekday use with a permit is for parking when involved in Albert Sailing Club activities, and hourly parking restrictions do not apply.

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# HIRING THE ASC CLUBROOMS

*Cindy Tilbrook*

Looking for a great venue for a function for yourself or your organisation?

The ASC committee has just approved new terms and conditions for the hiring of the ASC clubrooms.

Adult members of >12 months standing can obtain non-exclusive use of the hall at no charge for up to 20 people (excluding periods when the hall is in use by others). Members then receive special discounted rates for hiring the hall for more than 20 people.

The hall is also available for hire by non-members, community groups and external organisations, with Community groups and not-for-profit organisations obtaining discounted rates.

Please contact Cindy on [admin@albertsc.org.au](mailto:admin@albertsc.org.au) if you are interested or know any groups or organisations that require a venue or may be interested.



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# BOATS AND EQUIPMENT IN CLUB BOATYARD

*Rod Thomas*

It is important that your boat, trolley, masts and other equipment be labelled with identifying information, at the very least class of boat and sail number using a permanent marker. Sometimes items are moved (for example at a working bee or to move a boat into a nearby rack) and it can create a problem with locating your gear when you come down for a sail.

Keep your boat in its allocated rack. Preferably trolley and spars in same rack, otherwise spars on spar racks. Last least preferred option is spars on top rack above boat. Boat rack enquiries can be directed to [admin@albertsc.org.au](mailto:admin@albertsc.org.au).

# VOYAGES OF SECOND WIND

Colin Webb

Sailing the oceans has always been a passion, however in the last 15 years more passion than sailing. I restored my existing 40ft ketch ready to invade the South Pacific then COVID had me tired up in Apollo Bay with one of my pass times of sitting on the yacht and drinking 'unleaded' coffee. Then I got ideas that I wanted a bigger yacht with a pilot house so I could have air conditioning and heating at the controls. After travelling to Annapolis, Florida and San Diego I purchased a 1986 Cheoy Lee 53ft motor sailer ketch 'Second Wind' designed by the Seaton Neville Architect group and built by Cheoy Lee in Hong Kong. It was in amazing well-kept condition, but I still did some upgrades. The problem to buy a new boat is the delivery time are 3-4 years.

To leave San Diego I had 2 crew from Apollo Bay, one lobsterman, the harbourmaster and a local retiring accountant who was trying to get sea time accumulated for her USCG 100 ton licence. The trip was interesting as this was a shakedown cruise to Honolulu. We had very little wind, we could not get a trim on the sails so we left a small storm stay sail up to help slow roll. The general current was on the bow and minor swell but the wave height changed each time the tide was against the swell, however minor inconvenience. There was a cyclone 1000Nm north that was sending down waves 1-3 metres on the beam and our roll at worst was 5 seconds each way. So, with a 30 tonne boat, light winds and a 70ft mast when we tried to use the main sail but the top of the sail would just gybe with the roll of the yacht. Hence, we opted to use the option to motor. The days just rolled on, we had 3 hour watches and 9 hours off. Watches were rotated backwards 9pm to MN, MN to 3am, 3am to 6am etc. The lobsterman had to catch fish and we were well supplied with Dorado fish. We only saw

fishing vessels at night by their lights, otherwise it was a vacant ocean. The spectacular sight was at 147Nm from Hilo at 1am the sky towards Hawaii island lit up with the reflection on the high clouds of a big volcano eruption, we could not see the eruption just the reflection. First stop was to let a crew member off to fly back to San Diego from Hilo in Hawaii, then we motored to Honolulu. Between the islands we saw many tug boats towing barges, and the 'infamous' Ruby Princess that brought Covid to Australia. We took 13 days to Hilo and 28 hours to Honolulu mainly travelling at 7-8 knots. Fuel used was 503 US gallons, the tankage is 1100 gallons.



The yacht is powered by two 86 HP Perkins motors and has a Westerbeke 7.7 KVa genset. A water maker, 2000litres of water, HWS, washing machine, 4 x 260Ahr AGM batteries, 3 KVa inverter charger plus many more things. In Honolulu Second Wind is lying next to the movie famous motor yacht Vida Mia in the Ala Wai Marina where I am getting the rigging renewed, sails restitched and all new sheets and halyards, plus a bit more. After Easter we will sail to Fiji. I would like to be back in Australia in July. My dream is to sail around the 'block' including Tassy next year then all being ok Japan the year after in between sitting on my yacht at a harbour somewhere drinking unleaded coffee.

# HAMISH'S ILCA LASER CAMPAIGN

*Jon Rawlings*

It has been a very busy last 12 months for Hamish Gilson, a junior member at Albert Sailing Club. Although his obligations now to various coaching and regatta opportunities rarely allow him to sail at the Lake, he is a very loyal member since first learning to sail here 8 years ago.

In July 2022 he was part of a small group of 6 Aussie sailors to compete at the ILCA 6 (Laser Radial) Youth Worlds in Houston, Texas. This was a gruelling event which really tested their resolve in 40 degree heat, 18 plus knots and the infamous short chop, locally known as 'stop chop' of Galveston Bay. In a fleet dominated the worlds best 18 year olds, the Australians did well given they were all aged 16 at the time. Hamish was the 1st Australian and 11th U17 male overall. The experience was a fantastic introduction to working with team mates from other states, being focused everyday for 12 days of pre-coaching and racing, and living out of a suitcase. The sort of experience these young sailors need to continue to climb internationally. Back in Melbourne Hamish was fortunate to continue to be included in some of the Victorian Institute of Sport programs.

Hamish's goals after Texas were to train hard and work on fitness. In the Victorian State titles held in early December 2022 at Mordialloc, in a fleet of 40 Radials he was 1st U17, 2nd overall to Casey Imeneo who is in the squad currently pushing for a place on the Australian Olympic team for Paris in 2024.

The summer was a very busy time. The next major regatta was Sail Sydney also in December. Of this fleet of 30 ILCA6 boats, Hamish was 8th overall, 1st U17 in very windy (25+) and with all of the Olympic women hopefuls being in Sydney in lead up to nationals.

Less than 2 weeks and a lot of driving later, the 2023 ILCA Laser Nationals were held on Botany Bay and hosted by St Georges River 16' Dinghy Club. An interesting place with some shortcomings but with fairly consistent breeze. A fleet of 80 in Radial, split over 2 fleets, slugged it out for the first 3 days to established a Gold and Silver fleet. The regatta lost 2 days of racing due to a classic and prolonged Southerly buster. A very high level of competition for the locals as at least 7 countries were represented by Olympic level sailors as a build up to 2024 in France. Despite this top end talent and heavy competition with lots of internationals, Hamish placed 11th overall, 7th Australian, first U19 male.

Given his position at the nationals and other criteria, Hamish has been offered a place on the Australian Youth Squad to officially represent Australia at the 2023 ILCA 6 Youth Worlds in Poland in July 2023.

The pace has not let up and Hamish continues to focus on fitness and time on the water, sailing almost every day, either with a coach or alone, practicing all he can as he continues to learn. It seems a long time since he did the learn to sail course at Albert Sailing Club but so much of that early experience and the fantastic instruction and mentoring at ASC has stuck with him to this day. He continues to proudly represent ASC at all events. A heartfelt thanks to Don, Ron, Rod and Geoff and all the others at ASC for your commitment to teach kids how to sail. Ron please note that in the photo of Hamish at the Nationals he is holding the tiller 'like a microphone'!

## Hamish at 2023 Nationals



## ***SUPPORT Hamish Gilson***

*Rod Thomas*

Hamish is looking to raise funds to help support his representation of Australia at the 2023 Youth World Championships in Dziwnow, Poland in July 2023. This includes regattas and training camps in Victoria and interstate and participation in the event. A link for donations for Hamish's campaign has been setup through the secure Australian Sports Foundation site <https://asf.org.au/projects/youth-worlds-2023>



# BETWEEN TWO CONTINENTS: A VOYAGE TO THE REMOTE

Cindy Thomas



But the highlight of the voyage for me was undoubtedly the ice itself and the unimaginable scale of the continent. The capabilities of this incredible vessel allowed us to reach areas previously inaccessible to man, or we could cruise right next to massive icebergs, every one completely different, or be guided by a Zodiac or the reconnaissance helicopter into uncharted waters.



We eventually reached the Bay of Whales where we were at our furthest south point (78°, 44' south) and started our passage along the Ross Ice Shelf. This ice shelf extends for 650 km along its face and 800 km back towards where the glacier leaves the land. The ice is between 30-60 metres tall above the waterline, extends for 300 metres more below sea level, and with a further 300 metres of water below the ice. That's a lot of ice, and it is amazing to think of the life that must exist in the dark, deep waters under the ice shelf. To travel along the face of the ice shelf took us nearly 36 hours and it was a truly memorable experience.

Next stop was Ross Island and Scott's hut, from which Scott began his tragic attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole. This was followed by an amazing afternoon of mirror-like water as we cruised past Mt Erebus and the USA's McMurdo Station.

And has the voyage now cured my desire to visit this incredible Continent? In the words of David Knoff, the Australian author of a book called "537 days of Winter" about his time trapped as the station leader on one of Australia's Antarctic bases during COVID:

*"So why do people keep going back? The answer is simple. There is no wilderness so untouched, no landscape so remote, and no place quite like Antarctica. Once you set foot on the ice shores at the end of the Earth, you will always long to return."*



The infamous Mount Erebus



Crossing the Southern Ocean

# SONATA YACHT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REGATTA

*Mark Snell*

In May of 2021 I purchased a Sonata 6 Trailable yacht in poor condition and I have been restoring it since then.



On the 18th and 19th of February 2023, I entered the Sonata yacht Association regatta at Saint Helens beach Corio Bay Geelong. This would be the third time I had sailed my yacht, the previous two times with Geoff Saliba earlier this year.

On Saturday the 18th there was a series of three around the buoys races, and on the Sunday, a stern chaser race was scheduled. I was sailing my Sonata six, six metre (20 foot) trailable yacht, my competition was a mixture of Sonata seven, Sonata, 6.7 Sonata, 26, and Southern Cross, 23 foot yachts. This made my competition all seven or eight metre yachts.



My crew for the weekend was Mike Hale, who was one of the admin of the Sonata Association, who was looking to sail with/on somebody else's yacht.

The first race on Saturday morning I was a bit confused with the five minute starting sequence, so I just watched for the blue Peter and tried to get over the line as close to time as possible. I felt good during our progress through the race and I was pleasantly surprised to be in the main part of the fleet when we crossed the line at the finish.

We then went back to Port for lunch. I picked up my pre-ordered sandwich and went back to the boat to make a few adjustments for the afternoon session. Mike came down to the boat shortly after to tell me that on yardstick handicap, we came in first in the race. I was quite surprised. We both missed the briefing prior to the afternoon races, and on the second race went off on a tangent way off the prescribed course, and we came last by a large amount. The third race, we redeemed ourselves a bit, and crossed the line second last.

Over the three race series, we came fourth out of seven boats, all of them larger than me. I was very pleased with the result.

It turns out that our expedition in the second race worked to our advantage for the stern chaser race as we were first off the line.

We made it to about the 75% point of the race and the wind dropped out dramatically. We were creeping along at about 1 1/2 Kn in very light wind. The call was then made to shorten the race when all we had left to do was a windward return. We were still a few minutes ahead of the closest boat when we crossed the line 1st and won the stern chaser race.

The Sonata yacht Association put on a catered roast dinner on Saturday night, which was just part of a very enjoyable regatta, I enjoyed sleeping on the boat on Friday and Saturday night as well.



# ASC SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP 9 25 MARCH 2023

*Tim Falkiner*

The Club Sailing Day on Albert Sailing Club on Saturday 25th March was the last sail before the break for the Grand Prix and Easter. There were some club Zest boats out in the morning and Summer Championship Series 9 race in the afternoon. The race officials were concerned there would not be enough water in the lake but a heavy, unexpected storm came through earlier in the week which put enough water in the lake to enable the championship race to go ahead. The day was overcast, but there was a good south wind starting at about 8 knots and steadily increasing through to the end of the race. It is hoped that further rains will come and raise the lake level for the Autumn season.



# HALL OF FAME INDUCTION FOR TOM KING

Rod Thomas

At the Australian Sailing Awards Dinner on Friday 4 November Australian Sailing President, Alistair Murray announced four Hall of Fame inductees for 2022:

- Jessica Watson OAM (Queensland), solo world circumnavigator and sailing ambassador,
- Mat Belcher OAM (Queensland), multiple Olympian, world champion and former World Sailing Male Sailor of the Year,
- Tom King OAM and Mark Turnbull OAM (Victoria), Olympian gold medallists and the team whose compelling performance at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games played a major role in bringing sailing into the spotlight.

The induction of Tom King has special significance for Albert Sailing Club as Tom's junior sailing career was at Albert Sailing Club from 1984 to 1991, and he had subsequent successful sailing partnerships with Owen McMahon another ASC junior from this period.

At the Awards ceremony the induction overview recognised the major role the King and Turnbull Team played in bringing sailing into the spotlight as one of the most compelling and successful events at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. In 2000 the duo won the coveted 470 double: the Olympic Gold Medal and four months earlier the 470 World Championship in Hungary. Collectively the Australian teams won the first gold medals by Australian sailors in the Olympic arena in almost three decades.



Sailing together since 1997 in the Olympic 470 class, both Turnbull and King grew up sailing in Victoria.

Tom started sailing as a young junior at Albert Sailing Club in 1984 and continued to sail at Albert Sailing Club with a strong junior fleet coached by Mick Ralph as he progressed with a succession of junior crews to club, state, national and in 1991 world Mirror champion in Hoorn Netherlands. He then moved on to sail a 470 class boat at the 1996 Olympics with Owen McMahon, another ASC junior Mirror and Sabre graduate, In 1997 he teamed up with Mark Turnbull from Mordialloc Sailing Club to win gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. After the Olympics Tom took up sailing in the 9.3 metre International Etchells class. In 2012 Tom sailed with Owen McMahon, and a couple of New South Wales sailors Ivan Wheen and Dave Edwards to win the 2012 Etchells World Championship in Sydney in a very competitive fleet of 74 boats which included America's Cup winning skipper John Bertrand. Tom now lives in Brisbane with his family and sails less competitively and less frequently than he used to,

A short video on the Hall of Fame induction of Tom and Mark is at <https://www.facebook.com/AustSail/videos/681101063446001>



# Autumn Duty Roster 2023

**RO & CREW: Please be at club on duty day by 11 a.m.**

**If your date is not convenient please arrange a swap with another member**

**Albert Sailing Club**

<p align="center"><b>GRAND PRIX WEEK</b> Includes Saturday, April 1</p> <p align="center"><b>Club closed during Grand Prix event</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Saturday, May 13</b>      <b>APYC Start</b> <b>WINTER HANDICAP Heat 1</b></p> <p><b>RO Charles Bagossy (pbl)</b>      9555 5967 <b>Crew Steve Milton (pbl)</b>      0425 719 124 Chris Shields (pbl)      0411 246 353 Greg Ryan      0418 321 632 Chris Bennell      0499 916 587</p>
<p align="center"><b>EASTER SATURDAY</b> Saturday, April 8</p> <p align="center"><b>No Organised Sailing at ASC</b> Members with yard entry welcome to access their boats for sailing and maintenance</p>	<p align="center"><b>Saturday, May 20</b>      <b>ASC Start</b> <b>WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP Heat 2</b></p> <p><b>RO Cindy Tilbrook (pbl)</b>      0438 988 772 <b>Crew Ron Lackington (pbl) (flg)</b>      0421 788 145 Jack Woods (pbl)      0419 541 802 Bettina Azzopardi (pbl)      0407 558 913</p>
<p align="center"><b>Saturday, April 15</b>      <b>APYC Start</b> <b>SUMMER HANDICAP Heat 9</b></p> <p><b>RO Tim Falkiner (pbl)</b>      0417 107 440 <b>Crew Mark Snell (pbl)</b>      0407 569 083 Jim Glover (pbl)      0468 354 997 Byron Ko      0410 546 088 David Reid      0479 157 500</p>	<p align="center"><b>Saturday, May 27</b>      <b>APYC Start</b> <b>WINTER HANDICAP Heat 2</b></p> <p><b>RO Ian Skinner (pbl)</b>      0499 605 108 <b>Crew Pam Webster (pbl)</b>      0400 001 352 Michael Gratton (pbl)      0414 271 876 Margarete Lee      9877 7973 Max Beaton      9857 7454</p>
<p align="center"><b>Saturday, April 22</b>      <b>ASC Start</b> <b>SUMMER C'SHIP Heat 10 - Virgo Ladies (am)</b></p> <p><b>RO Cindy Tilbrook (pbl)</b>      0438 988 772 <b>Crew Ron Lackington (pbl) (flg)</b>      0421 788 145 Arthur Misson (pbl)      0490 183 073 Ian Coleman      0417 744 456</p>	<p align="center"><b>Saturday, June 3</b>      <b>ASC Start</b> <b>WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP Heat 3</b></p> <p><b>RO Geoff Saliba (pbl)</b>      0409 668 418 <b>Crew Ron Lackington (pbl) (flg)</b>      0421 788 145 Jaemie Wilson (pbl)      0420 362 573 David Scammell (pbl)      0408 003 166</p>
<p align="center"><b>Saturday, April 29</b>      <b>APYC Start</b> <b>RESAIL or TROPHY RACE</b></p> <p><b>RO Ron Fergusson (pbl)</b>      0410 492 091 <b>Crew Walter Green (pbl)</b>      0433 082 505 Dawson Crofton (pbl)      0417 571 281 Tony McGrath      0414 661 891 Ingo Mueller      0475 182 811</p>	<p align="center"><b>KING'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND Saturday, June 10</b></p> <p align="center"><b>No organised racing at ASC</b> Members with yard entry welcome to access their boats for sailing and maintenance</p>
<p align="center"><b>Saturday, May 6</b>      <b>ASC Start</b> <b>WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP Heat 1</b></p> <p><b>RO Paul Farrell (pbl)</b>      0419 133 641 <b>Crew Ron Lackington (pbl) (flg)</b>      0421 788 145 Philip Gardyne      0433 672 875 Helen Faulkner (pbl)      0400 248 064</p>	<p align="center"><b>Saturday, June 17</b>      <b>APYC Start</b> <b>WINTER HANDICAP Heat 3</b></p> <p><b>RO Lesley Scott (pbl)</b>      0407 335 188 <b>Crew Richard Rawlins (pbl)</b>      0421 472 684 Anthony Berger (pbl)      0413 651 345 Stephen Tillman      0418 536 575 Joe Chircop      0467 468 163</p>

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