**Casual Sailing by Club Members**

**Members and Visitors participate in the Clubs’ events and sail, or undertake boating activity casually at other times, entirely at their own risk.** Albert Sailing Club will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death, sustained in conjunction with, prior to or after sailing or other boating activity.

**It is your own responsibility to make a decision to sail or undertake other boating activity.** You should take into account factors including :
. your experience level for prevailing conditions, and of anyone participating with you.
. forecast and actual weather conditions for the Albert Park Lake area.
. the type or class of boat and its suitability for the conditions and person using it.
. other boats out on the Lake, and their ability to assist if required.
. ability to get back into the boat or craft and continue after a capsize.
. able to negotiate any hazards or unfavourable lake conditions such as low water level.

Newer sailors will generally not have the skills to safely handle stronger winds that more experienced sailors can handle. If in doubt consult an experienced member if available for advice on wind strength and your capability to handle it.
For members and visitors hiring a club boat a wind strength limit will be applicable.

If you are sailing casually let someone else know of your sailing plans.
If you have access to the Albert Sailing Club boatyard we ask that you record your details in the book located on or above the Sign On shelf ( next to the wire gate) - date and time, who is sailing (or kayaking), and estimate of expected return time.

If other than light wind conditions, say average wind 10 knots+ or gusts 15 knots+ go out sailing with another boat or craft, particularly if you are a newer or young sailor.

**In terms of sailing in strong winds, members and visitors should consider their personal safety. If in doubt, given the conditions and your experience level**, **do not sail.**

**SAILING IN HIGH WINDS**Wind forecasts and prevailing wind strength and direction for Port Philiip and inner Melbourne locations are available on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website and weather related phone apps such as Willy Weather.
\* Check wind warnings for Port Philip. Day time warnings are generally issued by BOM at around 5am and 10am.
\* Forecasts and wind readings for St Kilda Harbour and Melbourne (Olympic Park) have the most relevance for Albert Park.

**BOM High Wind classifications**There are several classifications of wind levels issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to be aware of, and take account of in deciding to sail. These are:

**Strong Wind Warning:** Sustained winds of 26 to 33 knots (48 to 61 km/h).
If the actual wind strength in an area, such as Albert Park Lake, is at this level
then this is in excess of recommended maximum wind strengths for racing for most dinghy sailing classes and thus generally only suitable for very experienced and capable sailors.

**Gale Warning or above:** Sustained winds of 34 to 47 knots (63 to 87 km/h) or higher.
If these wind speeds are predicted for Port Phillip and actual wind speeds in the Albert Park Lake area (average and/or gusts) are at or close to this range it is strongly recommended that people do not sail. if you sail a dinghy in gale force conditions you may not be covered by insurance should there be an incident as it is may be considered a failure to exercise reasonable care and could result in a denied claim.

**Note that wind gust forecasts can be up to 40% above the average** and should be taken into account in decisions on whether to go sailing or boating. The variations should be considered for winds in the moderate, strong and gale force ranges.
Generally, gust variations on Albert Park Lake are greatest for winds in North East/North around to West direction, and in the period after a strong South/South Westerly wind change.