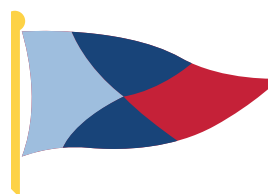


Summer 2020 Edition



# Newhaven Yacht Squadron QUARTERLY



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## YOUR COMMITTEE

### Commodore

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Cardell Assurance & Audit

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### Casual Berths

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## SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Building

Gary Richards, Andy Chappell, Nick Blackmore, Helen McCrimmon, Tom Rawlings

### Marina

Derrick Kershaw, Glen Botterill, George Reek, Gary Richards, Tom Rawlings,  
Jeff Shawcroft, Ray Frith

### Finance

Annalisa Elliot, Noel Street, David Tonkin, Peter Buitenhuis, Alan Adamson,  
Robert Burnham

### Social

Helen McCrimmon, Jan Bayliss, David Tonkin, Brenda Blackmore

### Boating

Chris Wilson, Robert Millard, Sue Padgett, Peter Gratton, Alen Garrett, Ray Frith,  
Gavin Russell, Scott Newman, Matt Draper, Mark Szutta, Jim McWilliam, Sharon Van  
Lunteren

### Safety & Training

Scott Newman, Robert Millard

### Child Safety Officers

Stan Jackson, Mary Brown

### Magazine

Stan Jackson

## CONTENTS

<a href="#">NYS Committee Members .....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Communication &amp; Promotion Officer's Report .....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Commodore's Report .....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Rear Commodore's Report.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Sailability Coordinator's Report .....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Vice Commodore's Report.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">For Sale .....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">NYS Regalia Price List.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Social Secretary's Report.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Calendar of Social Events for 2020 .....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Birdwatching at Sea .....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Lighthouses of Victoria: Gabo Island Lighthouse .....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">A Personal Reflection on Children and Fishing.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Training Officer's Report.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Around Phillip Island Motorboat Event .....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Mako Shark.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">From Our Young Boaters - Special Feature.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Welcome Aboard.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">We Play With Boats .....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Opening Day .....</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">NYS Australia Day Weekend Cruise 2020 .....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
<a href="#">Young Member Profile .....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">NYS Core Values .....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Floating About.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>

**CONTENT DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 1st 2020**

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Phone: 03 5956 7515  
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## NYS COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**PETER BUITENHUIS**  
COMMODORE



**DERRICK KERSHAW**  
VICE COMMODORE



**ALEN GARRETT**  
ACTING REAR COMMODORE



**DAVID TONKIN**  
SECRETARY



**ANNALISA ELLIOT**  
TREASURER



**TOM RAWLINGS**  
SOCIAL SECRETARY



**SCOTT NEWMAN**  
SAFETY SUPERVISOR



**JOHN BARAGWANATH**  
BOATING SECRETARY



**STAN JACKSON**  
COMMUNICATION & PROMOTION OFFICER



**ROBERT MILLARD**  
TRAINING OFFICER



**ALEN GARRETT**  
SAILABILITY COORDINATOR



**NICK BLACKMORE**  
OTHER MEMBER

# COMMUNICATION & PROMOTIONS OFFICER'S REPORT



Thank you for picking up the Summer Quarterly and having a read. I hope you find it interesting and somewhat informative.

I wanted this edition to focus on young people and their boating experiences and musings; and I put out requests for their contributions.

I want to thank all those youngens (and their parents) who contributed – and I encourage all young people to continue to send me articles/photos, etc. about their boating adventures at any time.

The front cover depicts a drawing done by a then 4 year-old (and now around 25) to express his love of fishing with his dad. Have a read of the article titled A Personal Reflection On Children And Fishing to find an example of what we can learn from our children.

Toward the end of last year I was informed that some members were unable to access the webcam on our website after we had an upgrade. After speaking with two of our IT technical support companies I believe the cause could be one (or both) of two issues: 1) the frame rate of our camera needed to be set at twice what it was set at; and 2) some web browsers / web browser versions are not compatible with our webcam. We have adjusted the frame rate of the camera and hope that this will solve the problem. If you still can't access the webcam, I suggest you try a different web browser – or a later version of the one you are using. Please let me know if you still have problems with this.

And speaking of cameras, to add to our security camera system we have installed 2 new cameras within the marina. I would like to thank Glen for trimming some trees to accommodate one of these.

Also, to ensure you see an updated calendar on the website, it is recommended that you refresh your screen.

As Peter states in his Commodore's Report, the Committee met on 15 January to structure a plan to implement some of the ideas presented during the planning process conducted during November last year. A part of this day involved examining our subcommittee structure and effectiveness. It became obvious that the role of Communication & Promotion Officer was quite broad and demanding for one person; and that we should separate Communication and Promotion into two subcommittees. Therefore, I am seeking members who would be interested in joining either (or both) of these new subcommittees. Please contact me if you wish to – or if you have any questions in relation to this.

Our wonderful Vicki has ordered a box of the Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook. When the books arrive, she will place them in the clubhouse downstairs for members to collect.

**VICTORIAN  
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BOATING  
SAFETY HANDBOOK**



**JUNE 2018**  
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I would like to remind you that you can receive a mailed printed copy of the magazine by contacting Vicki at [admin@nys.org.au](mailto:admin@nys.org.au); by telephone on 03 5956 7515; or by mail at PO Box 309, San Remo, 3925.

Please keep the articles coming in for the Autumn edition. I'm sure you members have had some fantastic (and maybe some not-so-fantastic) boating experiences you could share with us. And if you are sending me photos from your phone, please send them as actual size – they should preferably be about 1 megabyte in size.

Happy and safe boating

**Stan Jackson | Communication & Promotion Officer**





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# COMMODORE'S REPORT



Hello friends and members.

Well here we are in 2020. How fast the time goes. Since my last report it has been very busy around the club. We have had the AGM; a successful working bee (with the best attendance in many years);

an excellent Opening Day - which saw both yachts and motor boats participating in the event and once again a pleasing turn up, the jazz band as is tradition, a wonderful presentation by Robert Millard and his wife on cruising around the world, and followed by drinks and food. We have also had a very successful Around-the-Island cruise for motor boats; a new event plus a number of Sailability events with young people sailing in our dinghy events; a number of sail races including the Commodore's Cup; an excellent Australia Day Cruise; and some wonderful social events staged by the Social Subcommittee and helpers, including a fabulous Trivia Night, Melbourne Cup Day, Christmas Dinner, Father Christmas visiting the club for the kids, New Year's Eve, and a number of Saturday night special events.

On the 10th November 2019 we staged a very important 'Planning Day'. This was a very productive day and those who participated worked very hard. From this day we have some excellent plans and ideas and initiatives that we are planning to undertake. We started the day with a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) on the club. We then broke the club into categories and brainstormed each part of the club. Once the ideas were tabled, they underwent a rigorous program using a Value Versus Complexity priority framework program to determine the worth of the ideas. Once this study was complete a paper was prepared and on January 15th 2020 the Committee set aside a day to look at implementing the many excellent ideas. We now have an action planner and will start the process of putting together special interest groups or working parties so that the projects that registered as worthwhile can be actioned. To action many of the ideas we will be recruiting more volunteers from the club's many members. We will be looking for members with skills such as: IT and communication/promotion skills; others with skills to assist the magazine and various newsletters to improve communication in the club; others with youth skills who can assist with bringing on younger members to our club for the future; members who have abilities to foster school programs in sailing etc. We are also seeking members who wish to get involved

in Cruising activity for both motor and sail boats, and who would be keen to develop cruising programs; people who would like to assist with our many social events; members with trades who can assist in various building and maintenance projects; members who have fishing skills who could volunteer to assist in the running of more fishing competitions. We would also like to see more women participating in the club. In all, what we are going to look for is much more volunteerism in our club.

This club was started in 1962 by a group of volunteers who set up the club and physically built a marina and clubrooms. This is the tradition of the club, and it is what has made this club so special and affordable to all types of members. Most of our facilities have been made possible by the many members over the years who have rolled up their sleeves and created the club house, the initial marina, etc. This is your chance to come forward and get involved. I would love to hear from any members who believe that they have something to offer and feel that they can help in some way to improve our already excellent club.

As a part of our succession planning, we will actively be seeking some new members for the Committee as some Committee members will be retiring later this year. I would look forward to hearing from you if you believe you have skills and are interested in becoming part of the team who runs the club. To be on the Committee is a great privilege, and a commitment, but it is a very worthwhile and rewarding endeavour. Without a strong, focused Committee, the club would not function as it does today. Subcommittees and special project groups are also a very important function of the club. These are the steering committees who often help make the projects come to fruition, and the more committed volunteers to assist with these subcommittees the better.

You will receive by email a paper outlining the many ideas that have come from the planning exercise giving you an idea of what is planned into the future. The other thing that has taken place is a study of our financials. Back in October / November we developed a small working party to investigate how the club looks going forward financially. This exercise was undertaken by Marcus Bond from Cardell's, our accountants, with the assistance of Annalisa, our treasurer, and myself. This was quite a rigorous exercise that gives us a very good snapshot of future projections of our cash flow status from 2020 to 2030, and allows planning for major projects into the future like the marina replacement Stage 1, and the desilting program, building

projects, etc. Now that we have a robust financial position going forward, we are also looking at our investments. We remain conservative in our investing policy but given that we have over time put aside sufficient funds so that we are in a sound financial position, we need a strong investment policy in place to secure the future. Given that members on committees and subcommittees change over time, we are looking at engaging an independent financial advisor to assist with the process of investment. Many members who have superannuation know the importance of a good financial strategy and professional advice, particularly with today's low bank interest environment that is less than inflation. The Finance Subcommittee is working through this process and hopes, by May 2020, to have this policy in place for the future of the club and its finances.

All in all, Newhaven Yacht Squadron is in great shape, and crystal balling into the future we are confident that the club will remain a strong and exciting club. It is, however, your club and the more you put in the more you will get out of your club. With nearly 1000 members and associates at our disposal it would be excellent to see a bit more participation and involvement from more members. We will be soliciting more volunteers in the future so that

the running of events and projects is not left to just a few. Come and join in. Come along to the Saturday happy hours and special events and get involved. We have some wonderful people in our membership, and we are one great big family, all with the interest of boating.

We would also love to see some of the older members get their grandchildren involved. We offer dinghy sailing for free, so let's get these kids out on the water and enjoying our wonderful facilities. Junior membership is only \$15 per year. Motorboat people, we want to see more of you as well. Let's get excited and join in the fun!

I look forward to hearing from you, or seeing you around the club. You can always give me a call - I'd love to hear from you. My Phone Number is 0407 045525. My email is [peter.buitenhuis53@gmail.com](mailto:peter.buitenhuis53@gmail.com)

Wishing you happy and safe boating, and good comradeship around the club.

**Peter Buitenhuis | NYS Commodore**





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# REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT



There has been so much to do this summer and many events have proceeded well. These are described in reports in this quarterly: Sailability Regatta, Kids Fishing, Dinghy Races, Australia Day Cruise, Around Phillip Island power boats. These events have been in addition to our regular Yacht Racing Program.

Dinghy Racing has been introduced after an absence for a couple of years. On our first day we had magic Newhaven weather of clear skies and light breeze. We sailed the 4 Sailability Dinghies and two Mirrors. We all had a great time and plan to expand our program. Our club has 2 dinghies available for the use of members: a Pacer and a 125 dinghy. Thanks to Robert Millard for spending many hours restoring the 125's varnished deck. Our newest young member, Nick Szutta, has agreed to take this on in addition to completing his Year 12.

This year it is our responsibility to run the Southern Westernport Challenge on Sunday 22nd March. We have two dinghy races with entries from our neighbouring yacht clubs: Cowes, Rhyll and South Gippsland. This will be a great day to showcase our wonderful club and to see a large dinghy racing fleet.

Planning Day discussion by the Committee on 15th January 2020 made the following changes to the way boating activities were managed at Newhaven Yacht Squadron. Boating activities at NYS are managed by the Rear Commodore with the assistance of the Boating Secretary. The many facets of boating at NYS would be better facilitated if each was fostered by an Interest Group:

- Power boating and Fishing; Robert Millard
- Sailing; Acting Rear Commodore, Alen Garrett
- Youth; TBA
- Sailability; Alen Garrett
- Cruising; TBA

Safety, convened by Scott Newman, is seen to be an important component of each Interest Group. As is Training, convened by Robert Millard.

[There are many other components in addition to Safety and Training: Promotions, Facilities, Communications, Social and Finance/Budgeting.]

- The convener of each Interest Group will form a small committee to develop, plan and run appropriate boating activities. Members could be on several Interest Groups. Please contact the convener with your ideas and join the group.
- This input from each Interest Group will be discussed at Boating Subcommittee meetings, and then become part of the Boating Program for Newhaven Yacht Squadron.

- The expectation is that each interest group will better serve the specific needs of our members and be more relevant to our club.
- Each Interest Group would report to the Boating Subcommittee and most discussion would be on well-developed plans. Care will be taken to bring together a cohesive program.
- Interest groups will have greater ownership and responsibility to run events.
- Mostly, recommendations to The Committee will come from the Rear Commodore via the Boating Subcommittee.

This new structure will lead to many great outcomes being realised by providing safe boating activities for our club members. We need conveners for the Youth and Cruising interest groups. Please see me if you would like to discuss this opportunity to be more involved in your club by making an appreciated contribution. Each Interest Group needs members to be involved - please see the conveners.

**Alen Garrett | Acting Rear Commodore**





# SAILABILITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT



## Sailability Regatta

We ran the Sailability Regatta as the culmination of last year's very successful Sailability Program. On Saturday 28th December 2019 we had students from Newhaven Primary school and their Mums and holiday makers and their parents sailing our Sailability dinghies. The

mums enjoyed the opportunity to sail and we had 5 helpers on the day.

On Sunday 29th December 2019 we had 5 grandkids, grandparents and holiday makers and 8 helpers. A fantastic outcome for our program was that many of our young sailors managed to sail around the marks by themselves.

We started our **Sailability Program for 2020** with Bass Coast Specialist School on Tuesday 11th February. We had 13 students, 5 staff and 8 NYS volunteers. The weather was the best day in amongst other humid and windy days. We had lots of sailing and everyone had a great time. On a personal note we had one of my grandsons managing one of the boats and showing students how to sail.

After a 2 year gap we have returned to providing a boating experience for Young Adults in Marina Based boats. The wonderful advance in this has been the increasing number of powerboats being made available by our members. Many of the young adults love fishing, and powerboats can better provide this - plus they can pass under the bridge and explore Cleeland Bight. On Friday 21st February we will provide two programs. The morning from 10 to 11.45 will

host 12 participants from Yooralla, Leongatha; and the afternoon session from 12.15 to 2.00 will host 12 participants from Interchange, Wonthaggi.

We are planning to expand our Sailability programs to have a Dinghy program and a Marina Based boating experience program provided by two NYS volunteer teams. So many more possibilities still to be developed.

**Alen Garrett | NYS Sailability Coordinator**



Placing the keels into the Hansas



Commodore Peter presenting Newhaven Primary School students with certificates of sailing achievement



## VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT



A big thankyou to each of the 73 members who turned out for our annual working bee on Sunday 24th November. You exceeded all previous attendances, 50 in 2018, 34 in 2017 and 49 in 2016. Many hands made light work and most tasks were finished by lunchtime. George Reek, Geoff Graham and

Andrew Vanderkolk however were on overtime rates to 5:00 p.m. so that they could finish cleaning our marina walkways. Next year I will have to think of more jobs for you all. "Mr. Stumpy", Peter Smith, and his offsider Graham, made their annual pilgrimage and brought their truck and trailer and trimmed our trees. Again, he did this at no charge - he won't even let us reimburse him for fuel. A pleasant inclusion this year was the coffee machine supplied by our member, Peter Smith.



One task we could not complete on the day was the floor on the south gangway. The painted wooden surface had chicken wire which was becoming a tripping hazard. Once we removed the wire it became apparent that some of the wooden slats needed replacing. Rather than replacing



the timber and still having to solve the slipping and tripping hazard it was decided to explore other alternative surfaces. To this end a suitable fibreglass plastic mesh product was identified as a long-lasting possibility. We are presently trying to establish if the gangway frame will provide a suitable loading frame for the 38mm thick sheets and if their width and lengths will suit.

Given the extent of the work to replace the floor, it has been decided to wait until after the busy Easter period, as the gangway will be out of action for a couple of days.

I last reported our fix for the failed collar attaching the pile to the walkway on the north arm. The original contractor, Pacific Pontoons, were unhelpful as the warranty had expired. That company will be ignored when future marina contracts are let. Unfortunately, the collar has since sagged and we have had to support it with one of Jeff DeJong's floats until Des Funslow manufactured a more substantial support bracket. Des has now designed and fitted supporting brackets as shown in the photo. A big thankyou to Des, Garry and Island Steel.



We are still trying to obtain a work permit from Parks Victoria in order to start our dredging. We have just met with their new Permits Officer. He is the third person to fill the position and will hopefully stay long enough to process our application.

Thanks to the efforts of Stan Jackson, we all enjoyed the Australia Day Weekend cruising with both sail and power boats. We had gentle winds for the yachties and good catches for the fishos. No doubt you saw the picture of the "whale" hooked by Nick Blackmore.

Ray Frith and Vicki managed to accommodate all of our members who requested casual berthing over the holiday period. They spend a lot of time on the phone to ascertain what berths will be empty and between what dates in order to provide this service to you all.

All the best for winter. Can some of you please remain behind in Victoria as we still have some outstanding jobs around the club.

**Derrick Kershaw | Vice Commodore**

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Hats  
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# SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well, 2019 has come and gone and what a time we had. Just to recap, our functions continue to be well supported and enjoyed by all participants.

It is important that we recognize the Social Subcommittee and supporters who continue to provide our club with the best events possible. I want to thank Helen, who planned a fantastic year of events which set us on course for one of the best social years ever - you are a star. From my point of view, the amount of assistance we can get from a phone call never ceases to amaze me. Whether it is help to set up some tables right through to the provision of delicious dishes, our team never disappoints. It is not uncommon for one team to have done the set up and then more volunteers who couldn't assist with the set-up, just get in, and without being asked, do the clean-up. You all make me prouder every day.

We had Christmas Dinner in December with 61 attendees. Again, the food produced by Kate's Plates was outstanding. She is a local business who produces a quality product from right here on our doorstep. The three-piece band provided both background and dance music with the dance floor full most of the night. I had such a good time that I slept aboard the boat.

New Year's Eve was again a great success with over 40 attendees rocking the night away with our favourite 'Back Dated' band. They absolutely pumped out the hits and even had some new back-up singers thanks to Bernie and Anne-Marie belting out Mustang Sally. The happy faces in our

crowd showed how much everyone enjoys NYE at NYS. We are working on a list of events and dates with the draft on our web-site and Facebook page, and attached here. Any changes will be on our website, Facebook page and on notices around the club.

Eats on our second of the month dinners have been well patronized. At our last dinner on 8 February we had the added attraction of our Commodore Peter entertaining us with his extensive jazz repertoire. What an excellent night. Peter provided the entertainment at no cost to the club which was extremely generous. Normally he would have taken a paid evening; so we thank him for his personal commitment to our great club.

As a result of the planning day, we hosted a Sunday BBQ on 9 February. Whilst the crowd was small, all those attending thanked Peter for this initiative and will look forward to another. One family who attended brought their son and daughter (pre-teens) and it was great to see them playing on the beach, running around the club house and rolling around on the carpet. There was our future, right there enjoying the facilities.

Happy New Year to all, and let's have a great 2020. Look forward to seeing you around the club or at our next function: the March dinner which is home made pizza night. So, see you there.

**Tom Rawlings | Social Secretary**

## CALENDAR OF SOCIAL EVENTS FOR 2020

### **Saturday 11th April**

Easter Egg Hunt from 3pm followed by dinner to be confirmed

### **Saturday 9th May**

Presentation Night & Dinner  
Catering by Kristos - \$20.00 pp

### **Saturday 13th June**

Soup night  
Range of Soups & Desserts - \$15.00 pp

### **Saturday 11th July**

Casserole night - Range of Casseroles & Desserts  
\$15.00 pp

### **Saturday 8th August**

Italian night - range of pastas  
to suit all tastes \$15.00 pp

### **Saturday 12th September**

Trivia with finger food  
provided \$15.00 (Charity night)

### **Saturday 10th October**

AGM followed by roast dinner  
by Kristos - \$20.00 pp

### **Tuesday 3rd November**

Melbourne Cup Day  
to be advised

### **Saturday 12th December**

Christmas Dinner - Catered dinner  
and band to be confirmed

### **Thursday 31st December**

New Year's Eve Band at the club as usual  
Bar at 6pm and Band from 8pm

**Every Saturday night will be Happy Hour at the Club - bar opens 6pm, BYO nibbles or BBQ doings**  
Please email [social@nys.org.au](mailto:social@nys.org.au) to advise your attendance for functions so we can cater for numbers

# BIRDWATCHING AT SEA

## Brown Skua

Skuas and jaegers are aggressive gull-like seabirds that use their strong, acrobatic flying skills to pirate much of their food from terns, gulls and other seabird species. Both groups form the family Stercorariidae and the genus Stercorarius.

Skuas breed at high southern latitudes in the austral summer and move north for the winter. Jaegers breed in the Northern Hemisphere and migrate to Australian waters in the austral summer.

Skuas have strong bills with a hooked tip and webbed feet with sharp claws. They are not grouped with tube-nosed seabirds as they lack the raised nostrils observed with albatrosses, petrels, shearwaters and storm-petrels.

Brown Skua (*Stercorarius antarcticus*)  
Sometimes called Antarctic or Great Skua, the species is the largest of the skuas and jaegers. Brown Skua is a large robust skua with warm medium-brown plumage and distinct pale flashes in the wings. The species has broad slightly rounded wings, a slightly wedge-shaped tail and a dark, sooty-grey, short deep bill. Wing span is 1.3 to 1.6 metres, body mass is in the range 1.4 to 2.2 kg. Brown Skuas

superficially resemble large brown juvenile gulls, especially the Pacific Gull and Kelp Gull. Skuas were portrayed as the raucous and slightly threatening characters in the movie Happy Feet.

The Brown Skua is a regular visitor to warmer Victorian waters from Antarctica. From boats, the species can be observed around waters off the Victorian continental shelf. On rare occasions, they are observed on land in the Portland Harbour in Western Victoria. The species moves north up the east and west coasts of mainland Australia, reaching the Sunshine Coast, Qld and Houtman Abrolhos, WA.

Breeding occurs on sub-Antarctic Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. In the Australian region, scattered pairs breed on Heard and Macquarie Island in association with penguin colonies and burrow-nesting petrels (upon which they prey). Brown Skuas are known to harass other seabird species, stealing their food and even killing some of the smaller species including Prions.

## References

Menkhorst, P., Rogers, D., Clarke, R. et al. (2017). The Australian Bird Guide. Melbourne: CSIRO Publishing | Scofield, P. & Stephenson, B. (2013). Birds of New Zealand: A Photographic Guide. Auckland: Auckland University Press

Article and photos | **Geoff Glare**



## Interesting New Year Visitor

An unusual visitor came ashore at Cape Paterson First Surf Beach on the 7th January 2020. After some rough weather, a Northern Giant-Petrel was observed on the beach. Exhausted and possibly hungry, the bird was sitting near some sizeable rocks. A visiting fisherman handfed the bird with a number of medium-sized fish; the bird gratefully accepted them. After the feed, it made an attempt to walk to the water to take off into the strong southerly wind. Parks Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Park were notified, and the bird was taken into care. At last report, The Giant-Petrel was recovering.



Article | **Geoff Glare** Photo | **Anne Looney**

# LIGHTHOUSES OF VICTORIA: GABO ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

The Gabo Island Lighthouse, renown for its striking red granite tower, was built on the south eastern tip of the remote wilderness island, where Lightkeepers endured much hardship in the early years.

The operation of Gabo Island has been significantly downgraded with the conversion to solar power in 1993. Much of its role has been taken over by a solar light at Little Rame Head, a bluff, about 35 kilometres away on the coast of the mainland.

The earliest attempt to erect a lighthouse on the island was abandoned in 1846 after excavations to a depth of 66 feet to find bedrock upon which foundations could be laid had used all the allocated funding.

A light was eventually established in 1853. It was a wooden tower pre-assembled in Sydney, then dismantled and re-erected on the island.

The lantern that had been intended for the abandoned lighthouse was held in storage and used in this lighthouse.

Conditions for keepers attending the first lighthouse were hard with poor shelter and irregular supplies. The current lighthouse was completed in 1862 using red granite quarried on the island. Keepers quarters were improved at this time and again in 1888.

The new light had a first order lantern and a fixed catadioptric lens. In 1913, it was converted to a revolving light to give it a more distinctive character. In 1917, the light was upgraded to an incandescent kerosene mantle burner. At this point the character was again changed to group flashing.

A further upgrade was undertaken in 1935 to electric operation powered by diesel generators. The light source was a 120v, 1000w tungsten halogen lamp, producing 900,000 candles.

The island is separated from the mainland by a shallow channel, one kilometre wide. Supplies in the early days were delivered by ship but in recent years it was by helicopter.

Storms often lashed the island, and if one story is believed, the tide was a very severe one in 1895, which came right up to the side walls of the houses, 16 metres above the normal high tide level. It flashes for 3 seconds with a white light every 20 seconds.

**Peter Watson**





# A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON CHILDREN AND FISHING

I had a 12 ft Savage Kestrel, known affectionately as The Tinny. It was great for lake or river fishing and was well used in the Wimmera.

When we bought a holiday shack on the Island in 2001, The Tinny came too, and for quite a few years we used it on Western Port. It had no canopy and given its size and weight, it rode over the waves when at anchor; so it was always moving - even on still days. After a few hours on Western Port in it, your body knew it had been fishing! My youngest son, Tom, then aged about 4, took to fishing like a duck to water. No weather was too rough or too hot or cold for him and it would usually require a firm maternal “Not today. It’s too rough” to postpone a planned trip.

We would spend hours out on the water. Priceless time spent together. Also, any fish we caught was quite lucky as there was every chance Tom would ensure it was released!

One stinking hot summer’s day in about 2003, the fish were not all that interested in eating and after nearly 8 hours on the water I suggested (again!) we pull the pin. “Dad, just one more spot, please”. So, one more spot it was and, on a dirty old piece of blue bait with a size 6 hook and using a snapper rod, Tom caught a 52 cm King George whiting which was thicker than my wrist.

“See dad, never give up”, was Tom’s satisfied comment after it was in the net!

He made the drawing for Father’s Day in about 2004 and is titled ‘Peace is Fishing’. It’s my most treasured artwork!

PS: Fortunately, we now have a somewhat more appropriate vessel for fishing these waters!

**David Tonkin**



## TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

This year we plan to have regular training events. In the first instance this will involve a regular training event held at the Club at 1000hrs on the third Sunday of each month.

The first of these, a First Aid and CPR course conducted by Premium Health was held on the 19th of January with 17 Club members successfully attaining basic first aid qualification (see below).

The next training session to be conducted at 1000 hrs on Sunday 15th February will be the first of a group of Navigation learning sessions, taking the form of a presentation/discussion about history and basics of Latitude and Longitude position finding.

Other training events, in the Clubhouse and on the water, will be rolled out as interest and involvement of Club members develops.

You are all encouraged to let me know about subjects that may be of interest to you or you think club members might benefit from.

Additional training subjects which are being considered:

1. Recovery of a man overboard.
2. How to successfully dock your boat first time.
3. Fishing forum - a panel of experts answering your questions.
4. Another radio certificate course.
5. Another first aid and CPR course.
6. How to look after and service your outboard motor.
7. How to look after and service your marine diesel engine.
8. How to get the best out of your chart plotter, including the fish finder.
9. Exploring the unique marine environment of Westernport.

Alen Garrett and the Sailability program are, of course, providing on water training for children and adolescents. As the year rolls on, it's already the end of February, and I'm hopeful that training will become a regular part of our club schedule.

I'm particularly interested in hearing from club members about what they would like to have in the way of training programs.

Please communicate with me by phone 0418565467, SMS, or email millardr@bigpond.com with your ideas.

### First Aid and CPR Course

On Sunday 19 January we completed a first aid and CPR course conducted by Premium Health.

17 participants were successful in completing the course. This was valuable for the individuals concerned but also for the club because of the potential benefits which might flow to any one of us if we need first aid or resuscitation. Please let me know if anyone else in the club would like



to complete CPR and first aid training to give me an indication of when it might be appropriate to set up another course.

In the meantime, it's appropriate to let everyone in the club know that we have a defibrillator which is located downstairs over the entrance into the office.

**Robert Millard** | Training Officer

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## AROUND PHILLIP ISLAND MOTORBOAT EVENT

After much planning, several postponements and a rigorous process of equipment inspection and safety checklist on each boat, we eventually succeeded in completing what we understand to be the first formal NYS club-sponsored around Phillip Island motorboat event.

We had waited for the correct weather window for some time and eventually got our act together on Sunday 8th December 2019. Although we were correct in following the BOM forecast of little or no wind, the leftover seas in Bass Strait were quite lumpy making for a challenging but interesting part of the journey.

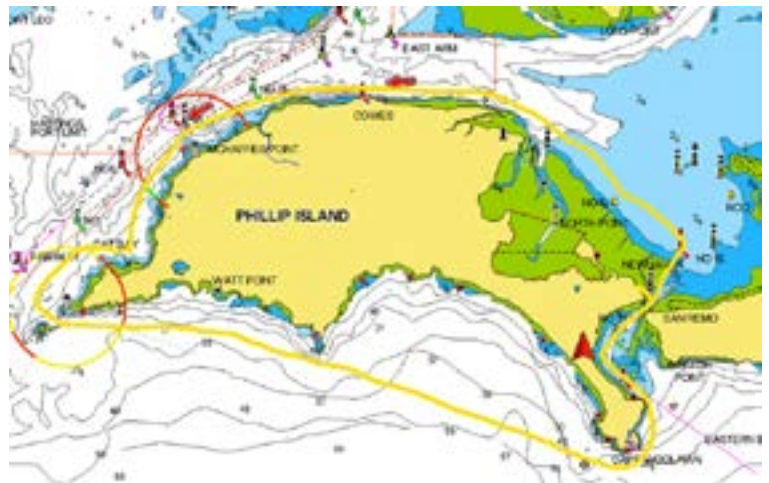
Seven boats took part with Garry Richards and Anne-Marie leading the fleet in Hoodlum, and myself and my son Charlie, bringing up the rear in Witchetty II.

Our route involved a gathering in Cleeland Bight for assembling and radio check; non-stop line astern formation along the south coast of the Island in Bass Strait; then passage between Seal Rocks and The Nobbies to a regrouping and further radio checks at Cat Bay. After a brief respite with some fishing involved, we then proceeded around the Island to complete the event entering our club marina.

Radio communication between boats and with the club radio room was conducted on VHF Channel 21 (a repeater channel), which proved superior to the usually used club channel of 73. Our Rear Commodore, Alen Garrett, gave up his Sunday to monitor our progress from the club radio room - thanks Alen.

Distance travelled was 36.7 nautical miles, time taken was 3 hours and 55 minutes (including stops) and, on our boat, top speed was 25.6 knots with an average (which also included stops) of 9.3 knots.

Without exception everyone enjoyed the experience and the achievement.



We hope that, together with our Around French Island event, this will become a regular event in the Motorboat calendar, with more skippers and boats taking up the challenge.

Thanks to Anne-Marie Richards for the photos.

**Robert Millard**

## MAKO SHARK

A very happy Sheridan Edmonds proudly displays her first-ever shark catch: a 25-30 kilogram Mako.

Sheridan caught her beauty about 2 kilometres offshore, ably assisted by husband, Luke.





## FROM OUR YOUNG BOATERS

### A FAMILY DAY OUT ON THE WATER

On the 13th of January Dave (my dad), Belinda (my mum), Tahlia and Mikayla went out to Newhaven. We arrived early so we put the boat in and went fishing.

In half an hour my sister Mikayla caught a whiting that was 35cm long. Ten minutes later Dave caught a whiting that was about 39 cms.

During our shift Dave, my dad, saw a flipper and he thought it was a seal. We moved closer and it was actually 2 dolphins. I asked Dave if they would follow us, but he said they wouldn't.

We got back to fishing and we caught 2 whiting that were too small, and the rest were in the 30 cms, and we caught 1 that was in the 40's. Mikayla caught a banjo and a skate.

At the end of fishing we scaled the fish and filleted them. We fed the pelicans the carcasses - which is fun. Mikayla's favourite thing was catching fish.

That's why my family and I like fishing from the Newhaven Yacht Squadron.

**Tahlia | Age 10**



### KIDS FISHING IN THE MARINA - SATURDAY 4th JAN 2020

I have been a 'kid' fishing in the marina at Newhaven Yacht Squadron for each of the last four years. I look forward to it at Christmas time each year.

Rowan Draper and the other helpers do a great job of showing us how to rig our lines and to catch fish. Most years I am the first kid to catch a fish. Every year we catch a few fish, and every fish is returned to the sea. I like the thrill of the tug on the line and reeling it in. Then a quick examination of the fish, a photo and release it back into the water.

I feel safe having to wear a life jacket, although I am a very good swimmer. Mary Brown makes a great lifeguard.

We finish up with a sausage sizzle and a drink of water. Thank you for a great day.

**Emily Withers | Age 12      Tahlia | Age 10**



## FROM OUR YOUNG BOATERS

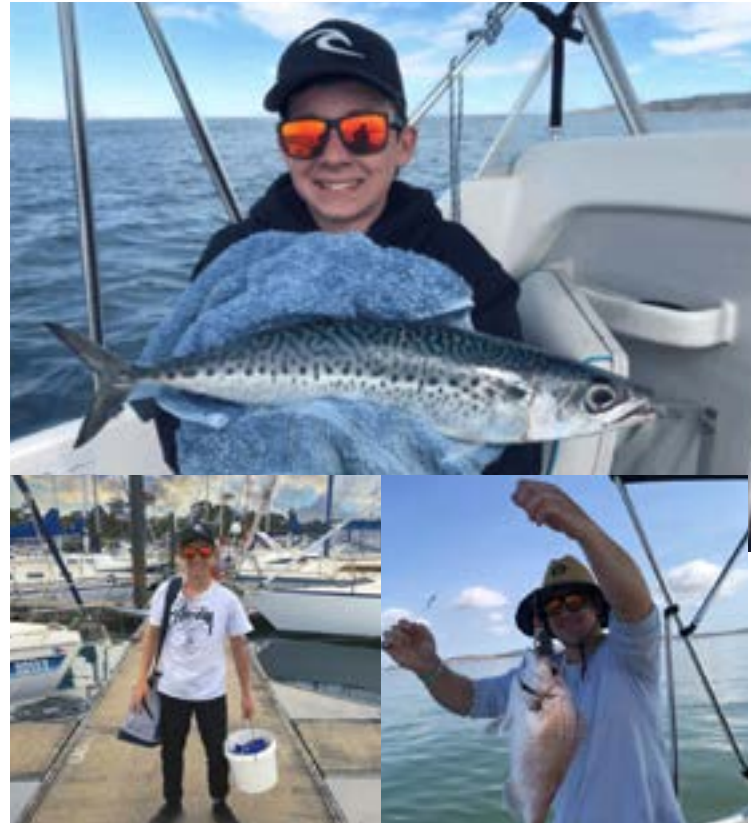
### OUR FIRST FISHING TRIP OF THE SUMMER

This was our first fishing trip for the summer. We went under the bridge to our favourite spot. It's in a deep hole out in front of the big sand dunes, where everyone slides down on boogie boards. We didn't catch many fish, but a couple of good ones. But we enjoyed the perfect conditions.

Then my dad took my Nonna & Nonno out for a romantic cruise along the sand spit in front of the fishermen's co-op and they saw 2 seals sun baking together. They said it was an amazing sight!

We love Phillip Island and we are planning to move here this year, but the hard part is I will miss all my friends I've grown up with. Swimming in the waves and fishing with my dad are my favourite things to do here!

**Hayden Wilson, son of Adrian Wilson**



### FUN TIMES AT THE ISLAND!

This story begins on Christmas day when we opened up our now beloved paddleboard from our Uncle Christian – he brought it all the way from the San Diego boat show. Soon after Christmas we were down at the Island again.

The sea breeze flows through our hair as we inhale the salty air. The boat jolts up and down as it breaks through the waves. Finally, we stop at the Picnic Beach and the anchor hits the bottom of the ocean floor. We smile when Uncle Christian lifts up the paddleboard and dumps it onto the water.

We clip up our life jackets and jump right on! Slowly the paddle glides through the water surging us forward. "Great paddling", shouts Grandpie (Hamish Hughes) enthusiastically.

This is what we love about NYS!

**Pictured right - Dad (Richard Simkiss) paddling on the paddle board with Charlotte and Tabby's little sister, Lola.**





## FROM OUR YOUNG BOATERS

### MY FIRST TIME SAILING A HANSA DINGHY



we visited Pop's boat called Felix, by Harpen



I don't know how fast I went in the little Hansa dinghy, but what I do know is that it was a lot of fun.

On Sunday 12 February, Alen Garrett was generous enough to give up his day to hold a race of the dinghy series. First of all, I'd like to say a huge thank you, to not only Alen, but everyone else who helped out wherever they could.

The day started with a short briefing regarding the course and basic rules and signals. Once we had established how nervous I was - as well as my father, Mark - we all headed out to our Hansa dinghies and sailed out of the marina. After everyone had gotten a feel for the dinghies, the race was underway. A tremendous amount of fun was had by everyone, with me placing 3rd. That's pretty good for my first race, even if I do say so myself.

After the final few had crossed the line, we set up for the 2nd race. Although this was a shorter course, it was still a great race - and very exciting. Within the last few metres of the line, I passed Captain Scott (Newman) with just enough time to claim 2nd. I think it's fair to say that all my pre-race banter had done its job.

Overall, it was an amazing experience to sail the Hansa dinghies. It taught me more about the basics of setting sails to get the most out of the wind. I had an awesome day and can't thank everyone enough for making it a fulfilling experience. Once again, thank you to Alen for giving up his time to organise and run such an amazing day.

**Nick Szutta** | Year 12 student

# Welcome aboard

Andrew & Nicole Moschetti

Adrian & Carol Guy

Andrew Beam

James & Lexie Porter

Steven & Sam O'Brien

Simon & Margie Wilson

Noel & Georgina Griffith

Ralph & Gianna Motton

Brian & Sharon Sartori

Mal & Vivienne Green

Michael & Carly van der Zwet

Nick Szutta

Warren Everitt

Christine Klopogge

Edward & Millicent Gunther

Louise Cropley

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## WE PLAY WITH BOATS

This story grew, I guess, from frustration. I used to have an 11 foot flat-bottomed rowing boat I had designed and built myself out of necessity when we moved the boat I had at the time from Hastings to Corinella. My father got the idea I no longer needed it or the mooring, and without asking me, sold them both – very much to my disappointment. And I have regretted it ever since – especially as I enjoyed going for a row, both as a pleasant activity and exercise. However, a couple of years later I launched my current boat, “Argo II”, which is in a berth at NYS Safe Harbour.

Well, a little while ago I started drawing small boats. You might say I was dreaming ... and today those dreams have resulted in the dinghy I have designed and built.

From time to time I buy the American “Wooden Boat” magazine, and it was from here I gained the confidence to design my own small boat. I had seen several designs and plans in the magazine; but none seemed to quite fit exactly what I wanted. Hence, my own design.

The boat is built from timber left over from building “Argo II”: keel and transom; salvaged oregon used in the frames; 6 mm. marine plywood; and a coating of fibreglass cloth with epoxy resin over the bottom and up the sides for 3 planks.

Having drawn the plan, I used some scrap chipboard and the first 2 sheets of marine ply to lift the plans from the scale drawings to full size, thus eliminating any errors in calculations from the scale drawings I had set out in a ‘table of offsets’.

As I did not have enough space in my garage, I built the boat outside in the back yard, covering it with tarps, etc. and competing with the weather. The overall project took me about 11 months.

Particulars:      LOA – 4.03 metres  
                          Beam – 1.4 metres  
                          Draft – plate up = approximately 9 centimetres;  
    plate down = 95 centimetres  
                          Sail Area – 84 square feet

**Lloyd Davies**



# OPENING DAY

Opening day on 30th November 2019 was once again a great success and we were blessed with perfect weather (which wasn't the forecast). There was a reasonably good participation of yachts and some motorboats out during the sail past, as is our tradition; but some boats did not participate due to an unfavourable weather report which was a shame.

Having said that, the boats that went out looked splendid and we still had a good fleet; and it was excellent to see the motorboats join in. We would love to see more boats participate in the next Opening Day, particularly more motorboats. It is always great fun.

There were however plenty of members and friends who stayed at the club house to watch the procession of boats, and as is again tradition, we had Island Jazz Band playing relaxing jazz for members to enjoy.

Once the boats returned to the marina the official Opening of the sailing and boating season and proceedings got underway. We were fortunate to have Robert Millard, our Training Officer, and his lovely wife do a wonderful presentation on their experiences sailing around the world. Amazingly, they were able to condense this into a half hour presentation. You could have heard a pin drop as they presented their story and photographs.

The formalities ended with some prizes for the best dressed boats and the official opening of the season, following which the bar was opened for drinks on the Commodore while we enjoyed the lovely food brought along by members.

This is an important but fun day in our calendar, that was enjoyed by all who attended.

**Peter Buitenhuis**





## NYS AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND CRUISE, 2020

On the Saturday the NYS cruising group met at the club for a 10.00 briefing on the weekend ahead. Stan Jackson had prepared a helpful handout with all of the participants, contact numbers and names of vessels, as well as comprehensive information for cruising and overnight anchoring. Tide and wind information was also made available. Enquiries as to the availability of a tender/s for boat to boat a transfer for sundowners was made, and Stan kindly offered to run the tender service for the cruise weekend.

The cruising group was made up of both motor and sailing yachts, new and old members and by the end of the briefing we had a fleet of nine vessels. We agreed to communicate on VHF Channel 16, switching to Channel 73 for conversations and planning.

The group decided against fighting an outgoing tide up the Hastings channel to make the anchorage at Chicory Lane, preferring to have an easy sail and the beautiful clean sand and water at Silverleaves for the first night. We then agreed to discuss options for the second night once we were anchored.

As we walked from the club rooms to the marina the local large, graceful Smooth Ray was gliding around the marina, slipping under the pontoons and out into the Bay, always a magnificent sight. They are the largest of the stingrays and can have a wingspan of at least two metres. According to bayfishntrips.com.au, about 30 years ago at the Mornington Pier a woman could be found climbing down a ladder and entering the water on a regular basis. She would wade into the water to chest height, within a few minutes a very large local Smooth Stingray would approach her and rest its body beside her. The woman would then feed the Ray with pilchards. We are very lucky to have our own local ray but perhaps I won't volunteer any pilchards. Saturday was just a perfect day for cruising; we left on an incoming tide and had gentle winds and glassy water, and the smoke haze from the bushfires had cleared, leaving our beautiful Western Port Bay shining in the sun. As Hunters Moon left the marina our emergency air horn once again paid for itself. The traffic using the public jetty increases each year and the fishermen have their attention firmly focused on getting boats either in or out, and are often completely unaware that there is boating traffic crossing the shared junction with the Marina. The air horn is a simple but effective piece of safety equipment.

The seals were playing around the top light as usual and the nervous cormorants took flight as we passed by on our way north west. With a fresh, cool and gentle breeze from the SW we enthusiastically raised the sails and headed towards the other cruisers. With Felix already out of the channel, we

enjoyed a gentle reach to meet up with them firmly in our sights as we enjoyed a lovely broad reach sail.

As we approached Felix, we assumed that she was politely waiting for the cruisers to catch up; but the breeze had completely dropped out and it looked like we were going to have a drifting lunch. However, shortly after we had another tickle of a breeze saving us from overheating. Sadly, this was just a teaser and the last stretch to our lunch and overnight destination at Silver Leaves was reached under motor.

Synergy (Alen and Denise) was already moored and gradually we all joined them dropping anchors at respectful distances from each other. Derrick and Mim were on Caspian, Nick and Brenda on their Cruise Craft power boat, Peter and Tina on their Mustang Cruiser, Mark and son Nick on Tangles a Bomerang TS, Jeff and Jackie on Capriccio with surprise guests Peter and Marianne. Tom and Tanys were on the trimaran Hunters Moon.

As we settled into our moorings, Felix became the party boat and Stan was our superb Uber tender. It became quite an undertaking for our Ferryman as the cruising party was due to swell in numbers as the evening progressed. Felix handled the extra numbers well with plenty of seating and space as we enjoyed cool drinks, a glass or two of wine or a cold beer. The selection of nibbles was impressive, and Alex was heard to say that Stan's evening meal had been sorted.

As we relaxed into the evening another vessel arrived, Mustang Sally (yes, another trimaran), the sister yacht to Hunters Moon, with Al and Annie on board. They had intended to leave their home port of Hastings and spend the night on Sandy Point; but it was very crowded both on the water and the beach, so they headed to Silver Leaves instead. Stan and Alex generously invited them to come onboard and join us all for the evening.

At this point we had 20 people onboard Felix when the call came from Stan for the crowd to "move forward" – the toilet had decided to backflow with seawater .....! These evenings are always full of anecdotes. One such conversation was how to track down all the noises you hear on a boat so that you can sleep. Yachties have to secure tinkling or thrashing halyards, the clunking of centre boards in casings on trailer sailors, the squeaking of the boom as the boat rocks and the crackling static sound on the hull - what is that? I suspect that our power boat friends have much quieter nights.

At the end of the evening Stan did an amazing job of ferrying us all back to our vessels safely despite having a

# NYS AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND CRUISE, 2020

slow leak in his tender. He did reminisce about a previous Australia Day cruise when he was battling the tide returning to his vessel with oars rather than a motor.

As the day came to a close, “Hook ‘em” with Gary and Ann Marie visited and greeted us all in turn before heading back to Newhaven as they were out for the day and not overnighing.

Eventually all the anchor lights started twinkling and the soporific effects of being on the water kicked in with the gentle lapping on the hull. You just can’t keep your eyes open any longer.

Sunday, a new day and the early morning light on the water is one of the special sights along with the mirrored sunsets when you overnight on water. Silver Leaves is tranquil in a southerly, but the tide certainly runs hard. The beach is clean and sandy and can be reached from moored boats. We watched a pair of sea eagles circling in the thermals while having breakfast and have often seen them resting in the trees on the foreshore on previous visits.

Radio contact was made after breakfast and then the fleet lifted anchors and made its way as arranged to Spit Point, off French Island, for the second night; as the wind was forecast to build during the afternoon and this anchorage would be sheltered from the predicted SW change. Tangles with Mark and Nick returned to Newhaven as planned. Hunters Moon left Silver Leaves before the group and discovered that the approach to Spit Point requires navigating exactly within the narrow channel, otherwise you get stuck in the mud. Well, without a chart plotter on board, she did indeed get stuck, just as the 20 knot change swept through. Thankfully, winding up the centre board restored her dignity, but the crew had had enough of the mud and so beat back against the weather for the refuge of the NYS marina. We had fish and chips and a comfortable night snugly tied up in our NYS marina.

## Tanys Boschma



We met for happy hour on Stan’s yacht, Felix. It was lots of fun catching up with everyone’s activities for the day.

Thank you, Stan and Alex for your hospitality, and to Stan for picking us up in his tender. It was amazing to see how many people they could comfortably accommodate. We had a very pleasant night’s sleep in calm waters with a beautiful sunrise.

The decision was made to stay at Spit Point on Sunday night. Unfortunately, the weather turned for the worst and it became lumpy. At around lunchtime we arrived at Spit Point, had lunch, and waited for the rest of the fleet. We did a spot of fishing and caught a huge 7-gill shark, which we then released.

Happy hour this evening was on Jeff and Jackie’s boat. Once again, Stan picked us up in his tender. This time it was a little more lumpy and difficult getting in and out of. We had another fun-filled evening before we headed back to our boat, dinner and bed.

The next morning, we had our last breakfast on board, and then headed back to Newhaven – which took no time at all in very smooth conditions.

We really enjoyed the weekend, and thank Stan and the Club for organising it, and look forward to doing it again next year.

## Brenda Blackmore



Tina and I had a great time on our first Australia Day cruise – even though we only did the one night. It was great to be involved with the club from the beginning of the

trip, meeting everyone at the club rooms, then setting off on our adventure. We enjoyed a spot of fishing on our way to the meeting point off Silver Leaves. We thoroughly enjoyed the meet up for drinks and nibbles on Stan and Alex’s catamaran, and getting to know some of the other members.

Thanks to all for a great night. We will definitely look at doing future trips.

## Tina and Peter Mizzi



## YOUNG MEMBER PROFILE - NICK SZUTTA

### WHAT MAKES NICK TICK?

Nick Szutta rode his bike from Cowes to Cape Woolamai to meet with me. Not only did he not have one bead of sweat on him (true) - after cycling 14 kms, he nonchalantly played down the trek, telling me he is a 'quick rider' and 'about a year ago I road back from Canberra with my dad, so across the Island isn't much for me.' Indeed.

Nick has lived in Cowes for the past ten years with his family: mother, Denise; father, Mark; two older brothers, 20 year-old Alex and 18 year- old Christian, plus the senior citizen family dog, Daisy. Describing his household as 'a bit rowdy at times (much laughter x 2) ... but, it's a lot more civilised these days' ... With all that testosterone floating around, I was quietly glad for Denise that at least the dog is a girl.

2020 will be a big, 'scary' year for Nick as he takes on the challenge of Year 12, at Wonthaggi High School. He's chosen a meaty array of subjects: Physical Education, Biology, Maths, and compulsory English. Because he has such an interest, and affinity, with mathematics, Nick has added Specialist Maths and Maths Methods to his already significant load.

Once he completes Year 12, following in his father, Mark's Paramedic footsteps, Nick has his sights set on pursuing a medical related career. Initially, he hopes to study at the Australian Defence Forces Academy, possibly transfer over to the Special Forces, and ultimately achieve his aim of becoming a specialist Medic. Nick is fatalistic rather than perturbed, that the criteria for acceptance into the Special Forces is rigorous, and places are strictly limited.

As well as cycling to work at his casual job at Autobarn in Cowes, Nick regularly cycles from Cowes to San Remo, 'for the fun of it.' To minimise the risk of boredom, he'll challenge himself, by experimenting with a different route, or riding faster, or both. Mountain bike riding, bike touring with his Dad; even the odd triathlon – they're all on his recreational agenda.

The family has two classic cars in the backyard; a Ford Escort and a Leyland Mini, both which are ongoing (never-ending) works in progress. Using the cars for Motorkhana car racing – manoeuvring a car through a series of tightly placed cones, as fast as you can, and as quickly as possible – this sport is not for squeamish types – especially, as it also involves sliding and spinning the car!

4WD driving and camping are also on the list, as is swimming - a big, and regular part of Nick's life.

When the family first became members of the NYS, they had a power boat, but Mark and Nick both discovered an interest, (morphing into a passion) for sailing. As of now, they're on to their 3rd trailer sailer, a B63, the newer version of the Boomerang.

Through the NYS, Nick has discovered Hansa Dinghies ... he's now a convert, and an absolute fan! He wants to buy one! Nick thinks the Hansa Dinghy would be especially appealing to younger people, mainly because they're small, simple to operate, easy to control, and with only 5 ropes to learn, they're quick to get the hang of. Even for someone who's never sailed before.

He suggests that maybe the NYS could host an Open Day/ Information Session with an expert, leading a hands-on forum, so that young people can use and experience the Hansa Dinghies?

While we're at it, maybe someone should notify Hansa that they should consider engaging Nick Szutta as their (highly paid) brand ambassador?

I am not telling anyone anything new when I say that Nick Szutta likes to push boundaries. And then some. Telling Nick that Hansa Dinghies don't flip over, is much like telling a small child not to put their grotty little fingers in the chocolate icing on top of the cake ... they won't flip? We'll see about that ... With adrenalin propelling him, he's working on making that Hansa flip. Stay tuned.

Nick enjoys the social aspect of the NYS. Often, he'll seek out Stan or Alen, or some other person who's happy to chat and share their interest and passion for sailing. He's constantly learning, he says.

Perhaps NYS could host a social occasion where the generations blend together in the one function ... a Trivia Night, or ... we discussed (with much laughter, and very tongue in cheek) the possibility of a game of 'Beer Pong,' with cordial for the Under 18's, of course! Please know we are joking!

Nick was 15 years old when he first heard about the 44 metre Tall Ship, 'Young Endeavour,' via a colleague of his father's. Gifted to Australia by the British Government, in 1988, on the occasion of Australia's Bicentenary, the ship is operated and maintained by the Royal Australian Navy. Young people aged between 16 and 23 years can register to go in a ballot for selection as crew.

So keen was Nick, that he entered a reminder of the date he could apply into his phone.

## YOUNG MEMBER PROFILE - NICK SZUTTA

A couple of years earlier, Nick's brother, Christian had sailed the Eden to Sydney route on the 'Young Endeavour' and Nick got to see the boat. Prior to seeing the 'Young Endeavour' for the first time, Nick had thought the boat from the movie, 'Pirates of the Caribbean' was the most impressive he'd ever seen. Laying eyes on the 'Young Endeavour' for the first time eclipsed that notion in an instant. The 'Young Endeavour' was most definitely the 'coolest boat' he had ever seen!

Incredibly excited to be chosen from the ballot, Nick was allocated the Gladstone to Brisbane route, so as a Learner plate driver needing to accumulate as many driving hours as possible; with parents, Denise and Mark as driving companions, and Nick behind the steering wheel, the trio drove to Gladstone to join the 'Young Endeavour', consequently boosting Nick's driving hours significantly. Setting sail in July of 2019, Nick relished every aspect of the experience. The rigours of ship life invigorated and stimulated him: he was learning so much, and he was sharing the experience with a cohesive team of like-minded peers. There were so, so many different ropes, and sails (12), and being a Square Rigger, one of the many challenges was remembering what each rope did. Nick put his maths skills to use, correlating numbers with ropes - and this worked well.

Although Nick openly volunteered that he is not very good at sitting still, (just quietly) I'd already gleaned this. By the conclusion of our chat, the bottle top from his lemon, lime and bitters drink was flattened and no longer recognisable. So ... how does he relax and unwind? Keeping company with Netflix is not on his radar. He might tinker with one of the classic cars in the backyard, re-build a touring bike, or perhaps go for a long run around the Island, with his headphones on. Pre 2000 music is his music of choice, with Phil Collins, Elton John, Police and Queen all on his playlist, keeping him company as he pounds the footpath. Nick confesses that he loves to talk, making him the ideal candidate for an interview.

By way of explanation (or justification?) he says that when he was born, he did not utter a single word for 2 1/2 years! – no baby talk; zilch. Nothing. His parents were quite concerned. Throughout his subsequent life, his family has suggested (tactfully?) that in later life, Nick has perhaps continued to make up for his silence in infancy.

Continued on page 28.

**Nick with the Captain of the Young Endeavour**





## YOUNG MEMBER PROFILE - NICK SZUTTA

‘What’s it like being 17 years of age, in this world of ours, in Australia?’ I wanted to know.

‘It’s both challenging and rewarding ... I think for me, it’s more rewarding than challenging ... I don’t know too many people my age who’ve been able to play with classic cars, go 4WD driving, sailing, camping ... do all these bike trips, these tours ... for me, I’m pretty lucky being able to experience all these things at such a young age’... Nick adds, ‘I’m a big fan of treating people how I expect to be treated ... I value being confident, but I’m willing to make a mistake, and learn from it. Confidence helps me do that.’

The subject of family is a big one. Ingrained with iron-strong family values, conversationally, Nick peppers his words with frequent references to his family - especially his father Mark, with whom he shares many interests (sailing!) and a strong connection. Mum, Denise, though, is the person Nick will seek out if he’s feeling like a chat over a cup of tea, in his pyjamas, on a Sunday morning.

After speaking with him for well over an hour, I am thinking that articulate Nick Szutta speaks as though he has been on the planet for about 57 years, instead of 17 ...

I am also thinking ... someone should bottle Nick Szutta’s zest for life. If only.

**By Sally Lewer Ahern**

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- Offer affordable, quality facilities in order to make sailing and motor boating accessible to a wide cross section of the community
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- Conduct popular and fun-loving social activities to encourage the interaction between members and their guests
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- Provide training to all members to enhance their general boating knowledge, skills and safety
- Act with integrity in all matters
- Be a good neighbour and member of the local community

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