

WEST HEADINGS



The newsletter of the
FLINDERS YACHT CLUB

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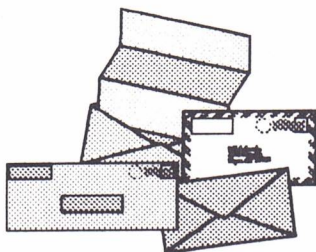
August/September 1996

OFFICE BEARERS 1996-97

Commodore:	Darcy Smith	059 890 628
Vice Commodore:	Sue Slater	03 9598 3924
Rear Commodore:	Clay Manners	059 890 021
Treasurer:	Len James	059 890 999
Secretary:	Di Eriksen	059 890 440
Club Captain:	Doug Thorne	059 892 754
Committee:	Frank Bancroft	059 890 654
	John Derham	059 890 209
	Rod Slater	059 890 703
	Peter Dawson	03 9589 2962
	Alan Farrar	03 9882 0776
	Russell Barrett	03 529 4183

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Subscriptions due:	ASAP	Refer details.
Working Bee:	October 13	
Boat Safety Check:	October 13	
Opening Weekend--sail past:	October 19	
Next Newsletter:	Early October	



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam,

I am compelled to write to you again as the winter season casts a dampness on my days.

You may recall from my last letter that I am a senior citizen of Flinders. Although only part-time.

On our visits during winter Bert continues to stick me out on the verandah in the drizzle and arctic winds. I feared that in these months when there was no sailing scheduled that I would be again lonely and without the entertainment provided by your club members.

BUT FOR JOY FOR JOY ! I am not disappointed as you continue to entertain me as I look through my binoculars and regularly dry the sleet from the lenses. It was only the other day that young man who sails the red boat with the black bottom came to rescue it from it's mooring. A very careful man he must be for he carefully guarded his clothes by donning a pair of overalls.

He methodically moved and guided his lovely little boat to the poles and right up the beach. I am sure he did not mean to hit the other boats in the harbour and they are still floating OK.

Since this time I have seen him regularly tending to his boats repairs. There must be a lot to think about for

repairs as he seems to go in the cabin for long periods of reflection. Others have now followed his example and their antics have been a joy to watch. I look forward to your next season and hope that the old ticker holds out 'til then.

I have a younger cousin who is interested in sailing and I will relate the pleasures of your club to him. I am sure there are many members out there with friends keen to sail in keel boats or the smaller ones. I hope they ask them to join and bring more boats to the fleet for me to watch.

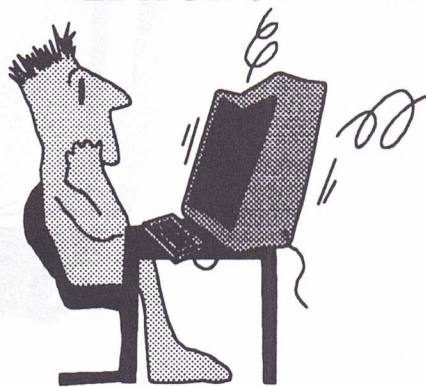
I must sign off now as my fingers are getting touches of frost bite and Bert is due back soon.

Regards,

Ima Perve.

P.S. I must say it is very adventurous of the owners of Anoorra to allow their boat to be used as a special super phosphate collection test site. I hope they can make it a successful commercial venture.

EDITOR'S IMPRESSIONS



West Headings Editor Annie Dawson
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The time of winter fires and sodden ground is well and truly here.

Flinders takes on a disguise from a summer holiday place to become like a sea side village in the blustery north of Scotland. The boats have been slipped and only the professional fishermen brave the heavy seas. This lovely village hibernates and awaits another fun summer season.

So do we. This issue is somewhat abridged as a result of the winter season.

The new committee has been busy and there is much to be done for the club and to individual boats before the season starts.

Importantly, our subscriptions are requested as early as possible as we are full speed ahead with the new shed code named--*The Great Southern Shed* by Doug Thorne.

It is great to see Ian Brett has made a sound recovery from his recent heart attack. We can see him out on the water in the cousta boat next season and joining in the club activities.

Wishing you all a pleasant and relaxing time until we again sail the seas.

Pete Dawson (for the boss)

SPECIAL ISSUES

New Members: We want to increase our fleet in the keel boats and OB seniors at the same rate we are achieving in the juniors. Ask a friend to join or buy a boat! Syndicate sailing is a great way to spread the cost and secure a permanent crew. Anyone who wants to discuss the opportunities or wants to sail please contact Alan Farrar (Keel boats) or Doug Thorne (OBs).

Keel Boat Sailing: We want to promote the benefits of the Flinders ocean influenced sailing and harbour moorings. The new PORTSEA to CEREBUS race on April 25 will provide the opportunity to bring in Westernport boats to start from Flinders.

Sailing School December 27 & 28: Sue Slater and Russel Barrett are gearing up for another special effort. Consider now who can participate and enjoy this special event.

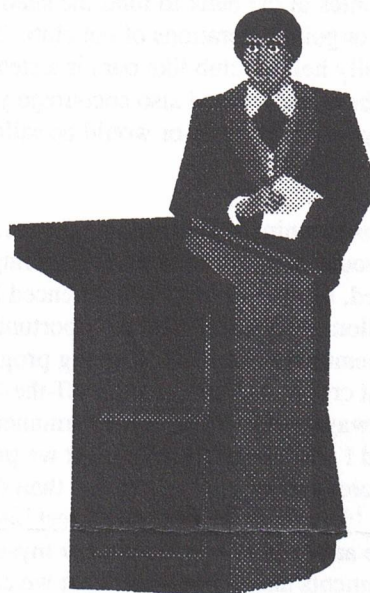
SCHEDULE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS 1996-97

	Annual Fee	Joining Fee
FAMILY:	\$182	\$80
SENIOR:	\$135	\$50
JUNIOR	\$50	\$25

Family comprises of parents and unlimited number of children under 18 or 21, if a bona fide student. Junior is under 18 or a bona fide student under 21.

REFER TO THE ATTACHED FORM

COMMODORE'S REPORT



On my election of the annual general meeting, I outlined what I thought were the four objectives of the club for 1996/97. For those of you who were not at the annual general meeting, the four objectives were:

1. To build our sailing fleet numbers in the junior, senior and keel boat categories.
2. To particularly encourage the continuation of our junior sailing programme which has been so successful over the last three years.
3. If financial resources allow, to build our boat storage shed.
4. To obtain feed back from the members on the types of initiatives that they see the club taking in the future.

Your committee has already met and I am pleased to advise that we have taken the decision to construct the boat storage shed which we hope will be completed by September/October 1996 in time for most of our sailing season. This will be a big project and the committee has asked Len James and Doug Thorne to jointly lead the construction team. We need experienced hands for this project and if you feel up to it you might mention your capabilities to Doug or Len.

As with past years, the social committee has been actively planning the years events and we hope to introduce a few new events this year that will contribute to the enjoyment of members and make a small contribution to our cash reserves which will be somewhat depleted after the shed is constructed.

The subscription notices are enclosed with this newsletter and I would particularly ask all members if they could make a special effort to pay their subscriptions as quickly as possible, so that we have sufficient monies in the bank to fund the shed and to continue the ongoing operations of the club. The one thing that really helps a club like ours is a steady flow of new members and I would also encourage you to nominate any of your friends or would be sailors to the club.

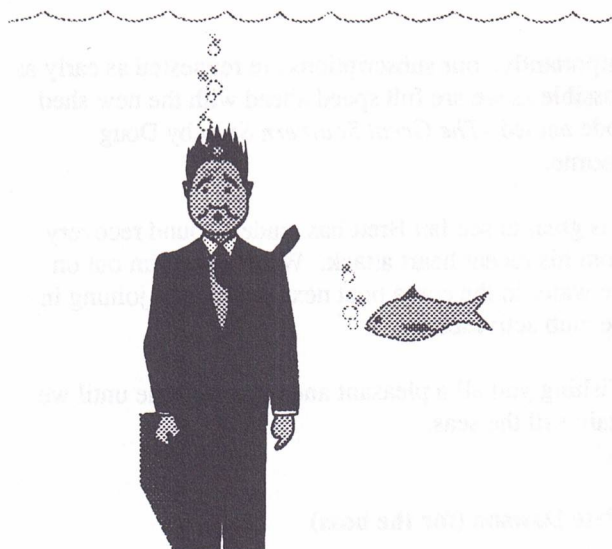
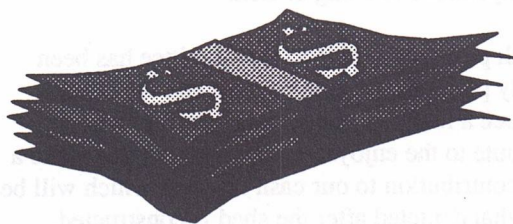
As part of our planning for the sailing season, the committee would be most interested in hearing from any frustrated, inexperienced or experienced keel boat or senior sailors who would like an opportunity to sail with other members in the Club's racing programme. The keel boat crews and some senior off-the-beach sailors are always on the lookout for permanent crew members and I think it is fair to say that we probably now have more people wanting to sail than then we have boats. If you have even the slightest interest, please advise any committee member or myself as to your requirements and we will see what we can do.

On a more general note, the committee would welcome any suggestions for improving club affairs, be they social, operational or very basic requests. Now is the time to tell us so that we can assist you in your planning for a successful season. Again, please advise any committee member or myself of any special requests that you would like to make of the committee. If we do not think they're reasonable, we will talk to you about a compromise.

Kind regards,
Darcy Smith

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30.**

**THANKYOU FOR YOUR
PROMPT PAYMENT.**



CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT

An extract from the Report given at the Annual General Meeting.

Flinders Yacht Club
Club Captain's Report, 1995-96 Season

Hello to you all. Sorry I could not make this AGM, but duty calls in the form of a very generous architect.

The 95-96 season saw a season of mixed conditions, although quite often all divisions experienced very light breeze on the start line and worsening throughout the race, on some occasions the shortened course was called for, only to find a filling breeze confronting us all as we finished.

Even with the absence of breeze on the majority of sailing weekends all divisions had entries to their maximum on most weekends even on the non race days which only proves that enthusiasm is extremely high at the F.Y.C.

The Juniors showing the highest enthusiasm with up to 12 Mirrors filling the harbour on most Sunday mornings. This enthusiasm can be seen quite often when the Juniors are out on the harbour on Saturday or Sunday afternoons in the 15 knot plus seabreeze. This only proves the success we have had with the sailing school, as it was only two seasons ago that these same kids would not sail in 10 knots and their course was in the vicinity of the patrol boat mooring. Their confidence and ability strengthening every week.

The keel boat fleet had it's share of enthusiasm also, despite the light conditions encountered on most race days. Although keel boat numbers are still down, competition was high through out the year with the majority of the fleet entering all races.

The sailing committee is currently negotiating with H.M.A.S. Cerberus in regards to a Anzac Day race

starting at Portsea and finishing at Cerberus, this race would also coincide with the FYC, Flinders to Cerberus race, which would be open to entrants from all Westernport Club yachts including trailer sailers, with this regatta and the fact that the FYC is hosting the Westernport Challenge in '97, we might (with a little bit of coaxing) draw a few new keel boats to the southern end of the Westernport

And now for the Senior OB.

The recently renamed Senior OB now known as the Geriatric OB showed big signs of improvement, with upto 10 boats of all shapes and sizes showing up for their owners day of Prime Time.

The memorable moments on race day accounting for the only explanation of the rising numbers of Geriatric OB entrants, some of these moments that come to mind are;

Ken Lacey's precision timing for rigging his boat and getting to the start line on time. Ken never being seen before 10 am for a 1015 start.

John Derham's solution for washing off a touch of boat speed 5 seconds before the starting signal in a 30 knot south westerly just to get rid of a mast, boom and main.

Ant Grage's ability to surf a laser down a breaking four foot wave and live to tell the tale.

David Haine in his lovely boat with coffee stained sails always being out there when you need him.

Clay and James Manners doing the father and son thing. With Clay quite often keeping an eye on James from behind.

Brain Coleman regularly leading the fleet in his Tiger Moth flying suit.

The little red and blue sabre confusing all on shore as they say "there goes the red sabre but now where has the blue one gone.....?"

Mid shipman Rod and Sue "I will take the helm" Slater in the club pacer somewhere out the back and always making the comment "that we would have caught those guys if there was another 10 triangles."

And finally the most memorable moment of the season for me was watching Frank Bancroft displaying his ability and local knowledge to travel from the steel pole to the beach with not a whisper of the breeze in sight, despite being connected to the transom of the patrol boat and of course receiving that dreaded DNF.

Looking back on these memorable moments we all must agree that they would never have been possible without the help from the patrol boat and control tower

personnel. Many thanks must go to the patrol boat skippers and crews who are always VERY close by to render assistance to any boat which comes to grief, after the 4 foot wake they generate upsets the fleet. And thank you to the tower personnel who have the great responsibility of taking the finishing times of all divisions and sounding the starting signal within at least 10 seconds of the correct starting time.

I wish to finish up by thanking the many members of this club who have helped me throughout my year as Club Captain. I would like to say a special thank you to Sue Slater for her constant support and Frank Bancroft for his advice.

On a final note, over the past twelve months I have heard numerous comments from outside the club that we are not regarded as a serious sailing club. With that in mind I can only make the comparison of FYC to the other clubs I have been involved with.

Although we are not a large club when it comes to active members it is quite obvious by the enthusiasm of our junior and senior members plus the high attendance rates at our social functions that we are extremely serious. What is more important, we are not one of the many clubs in both bays that are experiencing declining membership and fleet sizes.

Thank you all.

Doug Thorne
Club Captain.

THE SHED

"The Great Southern Shed" Update Report.

As mentioned in the Commodore's report the shed project has commenced and targeted to be completed for the opening of the 1996-97 season.

This is a big project for the club but the benefits will be great. A secure facility to house our rescue craft will ensure the maximum safety support for our fleet and Western Port in general.

Doug Thorne and Len James are managing the project. Doug has already submitted cost estimates and material schedules which have been accepted by your Committee.

The project will need the continued support of all members. Doug and Len will proceed to organise it all and call on us when required. It is important that we then support them.

See you at the construction site and the Great Southern Shed opening later in the year.

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE MONTH

James Thorne : A Profile

Name: James Thorne

Age: 13 years

School: Woodleigh

Year: 8

Sailing Experience: Sailed for 3 seasons at FYC. First commenced sailing with my Dad and later with Tim Dawson. After a short time I started to skipper my own Mirror called Seayalater.

Favourite Class: Hobie cat.

Sailing Ambition: To sail around Australia.

Best Achievement: Winning the aggregate 95/96 and whenever I beat Ben Slater.

Career Ambition: Anything marine.

Special Skills: Sailing, basket ball and diving.

Other interests: Basketball and footy.

Favourite Food: Chocolate and seafood.

Favourite Book: Surfing magazines.

Part Time Job: No.

Favourite Relaxation: TV.

Plans for the Future: None.

Congratulations James for scooping the pool at presentation night. Your excellent results reflected the commitment and enthusiasm that you exhibited for the entire sailing season. It was fantastic to witness your skill development and observe your humility in victory. Well done!!



STOP PRESS

News Flash. Due to another recent break-in at the Club all members who still have tenders or off the beach yachts in the yard are asked to remove them until later in the year. Thankyou Doug Thorne

SENIOR SAILOR OF THE MONTH

Doug Thorne : A Profile

Age: Does not really matter.

Occupation: Self employed roofing contractor. Current special project the Great Southern Shed.

Current boat: Sabre - Old Dog New Trix.

Commenced Sailing: Junior sailor at the Frankston Yacht Club aged 12. I started to sail in a Sabot.

Best Cruise: One week visiting the Glennie Islands and Refuge Cove when the skies were blue and the sun warm with fishing, lots of swimming and scuba diving.

Boats Sailed since: I have sailed different sorts of boats for different periods of time and in different crew positions. Some of these include; Mirrors, Gwens, Moths, Light Weight Sharpies, Fireballs, Tornado Cats, Etechels and many different keel boats.

Worst race: In 1990 the Melbourne to Hobart on "Wild Thing". We were travelling down the south west coast of Tasmania when a 50 knot front hit us. There was huge seas and the rain belted in horizontally so that we had no visibility at all for over four hours. On top of this our electronics blew and we were without electrics and therefore communication for this time. But we made it.

Best Race: The best race was actually the same one. On the next day we had turned the corner of Tassie and sailing along the south coast. Just about as far from any where as you can get. From Maatsuyver Island to the South Bruny Island we experienced 7-10 metre seas and a 50 knot south westerly. As a result we achieved boat speeds of 28-30 knots and never did we fall below 20 knots. Incredible and exciting.

Best Regatta: Out of the many blue water and dinghy regattas the best for me was the 1990 Kenwood Cup in Hawaii. It was first class all the way.

Sailing Ambition: I have already achieved a lot that I set out to do by sailing in the Sydney and Melbourne to Hobart races.

Favourite Meal: Christmas dinner.

Greatest indulgence: A big block of Cadbury Dairy Milk and no kids around a warm open fire. (That should be worth a couple of blocks free from Slates.)

Interests: I really enjoy annoying the heck out of Frank Bancroft around the buoys.

Life Ambition: To retire!.

Wonder what new tricks this old dog has up his sleeve this season. Hope its a great one Doug. Thanks for all your efforts last season.