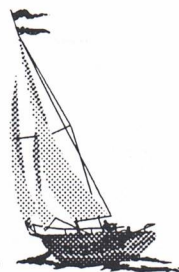


◆ West Headings ◆

December 1996

FYC gets State Government Grant

The Club committee has successfully applied for a grant to assist with the construction of the shed. The grant of \$7500 has been provided to the Club from the State Government's Minor Facilities Grant Scheme. This scheme is designed to assist small sporting clubs obtain facilities. The FYC's proposal for a storage



shed fitted the guideline very well. The total cost of the project, excluding labour is estimated to be \$15,000

The Club's application received valuable political support from Mr Ron Bowden, the Member for South Eastern Province. The Club Committee is very grateful for the help Ron has given us with this project.

The additional funds will enable the club to fully complete the shed project. We are should now able to connect water and electricity, install an alarm system and move the winches. In short, do the job properly.

Clay Manners



← Special feature on the the 14 foot visit.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
December 15	Aggregate 1
December 22	Christmas Cup
December 27 & 28	<i>Sailing School 09:30 - 14:00</i>
December 28	Beach party 18:30
December 31	New Years Eve 20:00
January 4	Junior Disco 19:30
January 9	Junior Progressive Dinner
January 11	Cocktail Party

Captains Corner

Hello to you all and welcome to summer. Going by the conditions experienced by the O.B fleet in the last race I am sure summer will be most welcomed by the three S.O.B members who braved the elements, cold conditions fed by a 20 knot south westerly saw Frank Bancroft lead the other two heroes, Tim Dawson and myself across the finish line. Despite the freezing conditions throughout the race, Tim still opted to take the occasional swim to check for weed under his boat while Frank and I enjoyed the colourful light show from the tower each time we rounded clubhouse buoy. Despite the cold conditions I have marked this race down as one of the most enjoyable while being a member at Flinders.

The weekend of 23-24 of November saw the Skiff boys and their families pay a visit to Flinders. Once again although light conditions persisted throughout the weekend, the weather could not have been better, 25°C+ on both days. Despite the lack of considerable breeze a great weekend was had by all who attended, special thanks from the skiff boys to all the members who gave up their weekend to assist in the kitchen, tower, and patrol boats and thanks to the owner and skipper of patrol boat FYC 13 for his assistance.

With three races to sail before the Christmas break, I hope you can afford the time to get out onto the water.

The Lead up to Christmas for me this year will involve the preparation for another survival race down the west coast of Tassie to Hobart, aboard the 65 foot, Sydney based "Bobsled", with a crew of 17 (all of which I have sailed with in numerous Melbourne-Hobart, Sydney-Hobart and Asia Pacific races). We are all looking forward to the reunion on the water and in Hobart. Even though I am going to Hobart I will be back for New Years Eve in good old Flinders.

This Years Melbourne to Hobart, being the 25th year, has seen a record number of entrants. All racing for a total prize money of \$25,000.00 so competitive racing is in store for all.

The West Coaster, in pervious years has seen conditions vary from being becalmed for two days, and watch the fleet sail up to your transom, to 50 knots plus out of the south, bringing mountainous seas, rain and hail. One year there was snow on the southern coastline of Tasmania. All of these conditions were experienced during *Wildthing's* record breaking race in 1990.

The Melbourne-Hobart race has been known as a mad man's race. In the Sydney-Hobart if you are unfortunate to drop a mast or damage some other necessary part of the boat you have a dozen or more ports to take refuge. The West Coaster on the other hand has just two ports to take refuge, Strahan and Port Davey. Both of these give good enough reason to call it a mad man's race, particularly if you are unfortunate to have to retire from the race. If you have had the experience of entering these ports during a strong westerly you will understand. They don't call the entrance to Strahan's Macquarie Harbour, "Hells Gate" for nothing. Many people over the years have asked the question, what if you get seasick? The answer to that, on all the boats I have sailed on is "sit under a gum tree". In other words "don't go".



A famous skipper from Mornington, young Alfie Neate, once said to a very sick member of his crew during a Sydney-Hobart "Your are not sick, until you're on the oxygen". That poor bloke has never been on a boat of any description since. So if your desire is to become an ocean racer, go and stand at the back beach at Flinders for two or three hours during a 30-40 knot southerly with rain and freezing wind in your face and then ask yourself, WHY?

Doug Thorne

Don't Forget your Safety Checks before the 14th of December

1996 Sailing School

It's that time again,
the FYC's Sailing School is
wanting students now!

If you or one of your friends are interested,
contact Sue Slater on (03) 9598 3924

Commodore's Report

Well December has arrived and we should be on the final tack for Christmas and the festive season.

The weekend of 23-24 November saw the 14 footers competing off Flinders on both days and for those of you who saw it, it was a tremendous spectacle. Congratulations go to Frank Bancroft and his extended family for organising the event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. I have always been amazed as to how fast the 14 footers travel - even in light winds, and how those guys can drop and raise spinnakers as they round the mark.

There are two issues I feel I should make members aware of. The first is that your committee is currently considering the Club's membership with the Victoria Yachting Council (VYC). Our subscription to the VYC represents approximately 10% of the club's expenditure and your committee is of the view that we do not receive any real value for this subscription. I have discussed the matter with the VYC and unless we can come to a suitable arrangement with the VYC, the Club is likely to sever its relationship with this body in the near future. If any members feel strongly about this, would they please contact me.

As I reported last month, the shed has been "on hold" until we heard the result of our grant application. Now that the grant has been approved we will be proceeding with construction. I hope and trust that the shed will be up

sometime in January. So be prepared, we will need some worthy building volunteers for the erection.

Finally, a word about safety. The club has always been very safety conscious and I would like this to continue. This applies to all our off-the beach racing and particularly to casual sailing where members should advise somebody if they are going out for a sail before they sail. This allows us some chance of doing something if a problem occurs.

Di Ericson has arranged for all committee members to undertake a CPR course in early December and I plan to hold one or more of these for members sometime in December/January. Notices will appear in our WEST

HEADINGS or at the Clubhouse and I encourage as many as possible to attend. As I am sure you all appreciate we need to have an adequate rescue service and some knowledge of the recovery process to ensure the well being of all of our Members.

I look forward to seeing you at the clubhouse or on the water and on behalf of the Committee I wish you a safe and happy festive season.

Darcy R Smith
Commodore



OVERHEARD

The Club was busy with the 14 footers. A prominent member who shall remain nameless remarked "it looks just like a *real* club". The gentleman concerned is a marketing director with a major confectionary company and should have known better. The matter has been referred to the Commodore and disciplinary action will be taken.

Tee-Shirts and Jumpers

Made of High quality cotton and embroidered with the FYC logo.

If you are interested please phone Sue Slater on 03 95983921.

Great Christmas Presents!

Tee-Shirts	\$18.50
Sweat Shirts	\$39

Junior Sailor of the Month

Leigh Whiffin: A Profile

Name: Leigh Whiffin

Age: 13 years

School: Dromana Secondary College, Year 7

Sailing experience: Learnt to sail with Lyn Whiffen at the Flinders Yacht Club in a Mirror, *Zephyr II*. Last year he sailed with a friend, Bevan. They were a good combination as they won quite a few races. Leigh has a reputation as being a light air specialist. This season he will be sailing with his sister Chelsea, as Bevan has broken his leg.

Special skills: Tennis (He plays section 3 juniors on a Saturday for Flinders), sailing and golf.

Other interests: Leigh likes to play his electric guitar and he has just started up a band at school.

Favourite food: Chocolate, bacon and eggs, donuts and icecream

Favourite relaxation: Watching TV

Career Ambition: To make a lot of money.

Part time job: Mowing lawns.

Senior Sailor of the Month

Ken Lacey: A Profile

Age: Well past mid life, but still young at heart.

Occupation: Retired after lifetime with Seley Decal P/L, who were specialised printers

Current boat: Flat Out, a laser which he treated himself to for his sixtieth birthday

First boat: A surprise from his dad when he was about five. A cane framed canvas canoe.

Other boats: His first introduction to sailing was with his dad on a 10 ft clinker sailing dinghy, *Playboy*, which was kept under his grandparents bathing box at the end of New Street Brighton. It cost his dad a quid a



foot to have it built.

In the early forties Ken acquired a miniature seahorse sailing canoe which he sailed whilst a member of Sandringham Yacht Club. In 1947 he purchased a 12 foot Australian Cadet Dinghy, *Lightning*, and transferred to Royal Brighton Yacht Club where he has been a member for 49 years. In this class he represented Victoria in Hobart in the Stonehaven Cup.

Ken continued his sailing in an International Star, firstly as crew until he bought his own *Vega*. The star class is very high tech for a boat designed in 1922. Ken fondly recalls mixing with the rich and famous who competed in this class at the 1956 Olympic Games. In this boat Ken won the Brighton Fleet Championship in 1954-55.

Fast cars and girls competed for Ken's attention in his late twenties. He owned a model T Ford, a Riley 9 and a pre war TA series MG (not red). He continued to participate in overnight round the Bay races on boats like *Currawong*, (Owned by the Warner family later of *Winston Churchill* fame.)

With a young family Ken restored a Sandridge Sharpie and crewed on Dragons. He was third man on *Aolean*, a Soling. Ken purchased a fibreglass bluebird in which he won the Victorian Championships three times. He sold this boat earlier this year.

Sailing highlights: A most memorable voyage was on the Sydney Mooloolaba leg of a trip from Melbourne to Bowen. It proved terrifying in the squally conditions at the tail end of the cyclone season. The engine drowned, flat battery, no lights, broken steering, a seasick crew, water spouts, encounters with big ships and only a torch for navigation. Ken's fingernail marks are still visible on the fore deck.

Favourite food: Fresh mussels with garlic bread, lemon and white wine.

Favourite wine: Chateau cardboard.

Interests: Wooden boats, Flinders District historical Society (President), Founding Secretary of Probus club of Flinders, and recently has played pennant lawn bowls for Flinders.

Immediate Ambition: To grow old disgracefully.

For Sale:

Mirror Dinghy

Very good condition, comes with registered trailer, spinnaker, new gaff and boom, oars, blue hull, varnished decks, no work to do, ready to sail or race

\$650.00

Contact: Kim Prown, Dromana

Phone: 059 873 951 or 018 567 476

A grass wall to hold back the sea

Ken Lacey has been very active encouraging the establishment of marram grass along the top of the sea wall at the club house.

Marram grass was first introduced to Victoria by the Government Botanist Barron von Mueller in 1883. It is a native to the coasts of North America and Europe and is a summer growing tussocky perennial which favours a cool climate with an annual rainfall in excess of 450 mm.

Marram grass was first planted in the Port Fairy District and has subsequently been used for dune stabilisation across Victoria. For example it has been widely used at Gunnamatta to stabilise the dunes.

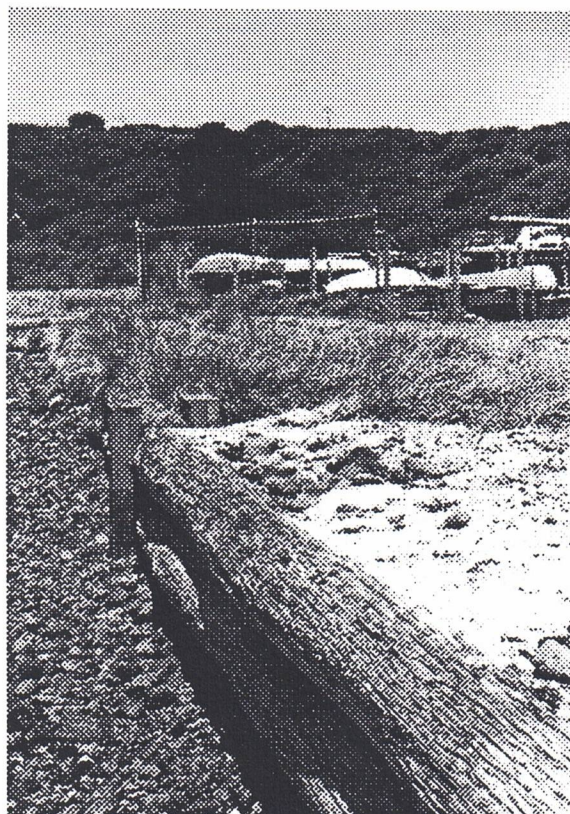
It can be established readily from stems (culms) easily and pulled from established clumps. A number of culms should be planted in a whole at least 300 mm deep.

Victorian marram grass is now exported to NSW for dune stabilisation. It is used by the Nowra District Soil Conservation staff. In this area marram grass is short lived making it an ideal primary stabiliser. Seeds of native trees and shrubs are broadcast into the marram planted area. Marram grass does not grow vigorously in Southern NSW. NSW Conservation staff harvest Victorian Marram grass on the Ninety mile Beach and in the Venus Bay-Waratah Bay area.

Led by Ken Lacey, Club members are doing a good job es-

ablishing marram grass on the bank. We are slowly getting a levy Bank in front of the club which should help to protect the area from storm waves and high tides.

Note: This item was based on an article by Paul Fitzsimons from the Victorian National Parks Service and provided by Ken Lacey.



COCKTAIL PARTY

Saturday 11th Jan. 1997

at the home of Darcy & Jenny Smith
"Allambie". Red Hill Flinders Rd. Flinders
(approx. 5 km out of Flinders)

Please Bring a plate
Adults \$12 Friends Welcome
no RSVP required

Letters to the Editor

Dear Committee,

On behalf of the Victorian 14' Skiff fleet we wish to thank all of the Flinders Yacht Club members for the use of their club and surrounds on the weekend 23 & 24, 1996.

As you may recall, the weather was just about perfect and as usual our largest fleet of 14's for the year turned up.

If all is well and we are invited back next year, we prepose (weather permitting) to organise extra sailing for the Flinders members and their kids (in particular) on 14' Skiffs.

Special thanks should go to Frank Bancroft as he provided co-ordination from very early on in the programming stage right through to the completion of sailing.

Other voluntary helpers we'd like to thank include Doug & Mandy, Fay, John & Mary, Sandra & Peter, Clay & David, Brian, Rod, Andrew, John, and Commodore Darcy Smith.

Thanks again for your generosity,
Sincerely,
Rob Oshlack,
Secretary of the Victorian 14' Sailing Council, and written on behalf of the executive and its members.

Great Dinner, Inspirational Talk

Stories of yachts racing across the southern Ocean consistently maintaining speeds in excess of 20 knots and

averaging over 400 Nautical miles in 24 hours provided the highlight of a pleasant evening at the club house on Saturday 8th of December. About 45 members enjoyed the night.

The guest speaker was Mark Willet who participated in two Whitbread round the world races. Mark showed a number of Videos on the races. At the end somebody asked him why he did it. While he was a great speaker he did not answer this question. Clearly there is no logical answer. Mark likened the experience more to surfing than sailing. He described one episode where the yacht surfed a Southern ocean swell for 20 minutes. "The ultimate surfing experience." He also described how the 60 foot yachts would come down the face of a wave hit the trough and keep in going. It would take the crew hours to tidy up and replace the broken gear that resulted.

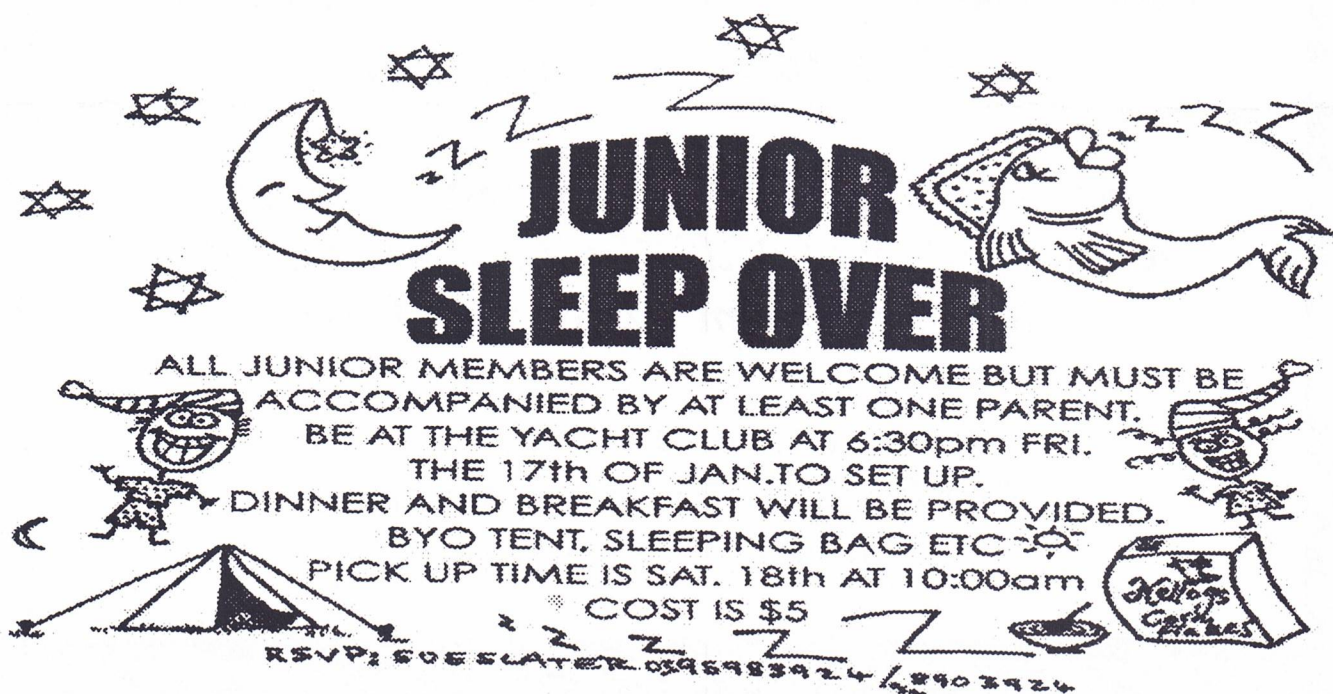
The footage of the races was inspirational. The author put to sea the following day determined to push his boat just that bit harder. The video and talk helped motivation but it did little to improve my sailing skills. You will see from the results page that *Scamp* came last on yardstick and club handicap. Still I can't blame Mark Willet entirely.

Clay Manners

The Sick List

Brian Coleman has recently undergone surgery on his Beye. Brian is now at home and recovering well but it will be some months before we see him on the water. Although Brian is not sailing he has indicated that he wishes to remain handicapper for the off-the beach yachts. For a while at least we will be able to accuse him of being one eyed. All members join with West Headings editorial staff in wishing Brian a speedy recovery.

Gwen and Len James have also had, or are about to have, minor surgery and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

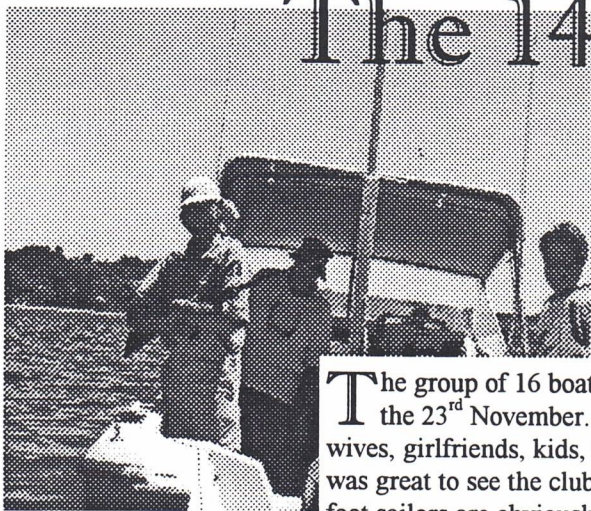


JUNIOR SLEEP OVER

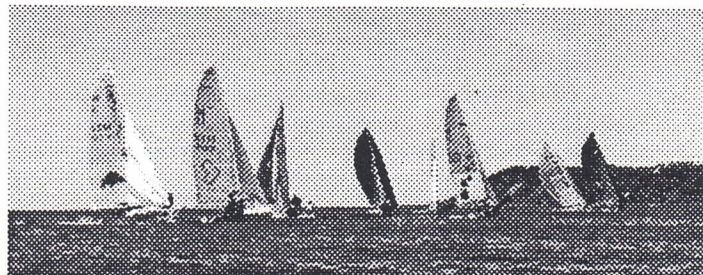
ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS ARE WELCOME BUT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AT LEAST ONE PARENT.
BE AT THE YACHT CLUB AT 6:30pm FRI. THE 17th OF JAN. TO SET UP.
DINNER AND BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED.
BYO TENT, SLEEPING BAG ETC.
PICK UP TIME IS SAT. 18th AT 10:00am
COST IS \$5

RSVP: BOE SLATER 0395983924 / 890 3924

The 14 Footers



Is that an automatic shotgun?



The group of 16 boats arrived at Flinders on Saturday the 23rd November. The crews were accompanied by wives, girlfriends, kids, tents, trailers, boats and dogs. It was great to see the club so alive with activity. Fourteen foot sailors are obviously a closely knit bunch who both sail hard and play hard. The competition on the water was matched by the intense partying around the club-house on Saturday night.



The Flinders race is part of their Grand Prix series. Ten races are sailed through the summer. The first at Bendigo is appropriately called the ice breaker. Others are held at McCrae, Sandringham Chelsea and Black Rock. Flinders is the fourth in the series

While our guests were great sailors their ability to name yachts is very questionable. Scottie Bancroft's yacht was called "Beam Me Up". What sort of a name is that! You also have to worry about someone who calls their boat "Grunt".

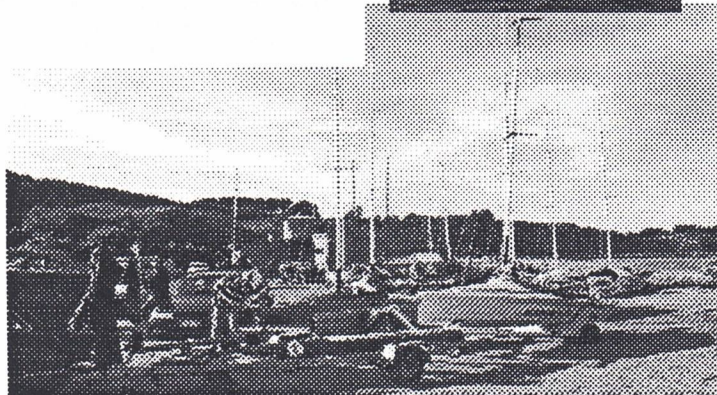
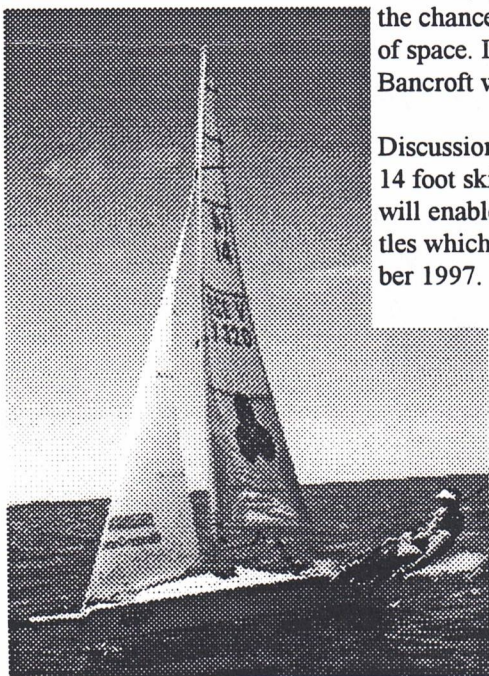


On the water the fourteen footers made a great sight. The patrol boat crews were treated to some spectacular sailing. If any of our junior sailors have aspirations of graduating from mirrors to 14 foot skiffs tell dad a new one costs about \$20,000. If you are handy and can do some of the work yourself you can keep the cost down to about \$15,000. A set of sails is worth about \$3500.



While the 14ft skiffs sail all around Victoria and interstate they particularly enjoy Flinders. They appreciate the chance to camp out overnight, clear water and plenty of space. It might also have something to do with Frank Bancroft who does a great job organising the racing.

Discussions are under way to amalgamate the Australian 14 foot skiff class with the International 14 class. This will enable Victorian crews to participate in the world titles which are due to be held in San Francisco in November 1997.



Results

Vice Commodore's Trophy Heat 3, 8th Decem-

SOB			JOB		
Boat Name	Yard Stick Position	Club Handicap Position	Boat Name	Yard Stick Position	Club Handicap Position
Diddy Do It	1	1	Oriole	1	2
Old Dog new Trix	2	2	Seayalater	2	1
Wahoo	3	4	Moozie Too	3	3
Crossfire	4	3	Firey Dolphin	4	5
Scamp	5	5	Shearwater	5	4
Flat Out	DNF	DNF			

Over all Vice Commodore's Trophy Results

	Boat Name	Yard Stick		Club Handicap	
		Points	Place	Points	Place
SOB	Diddy Do It	1.5	1	2.75	1 eq.
	Old Dog New Trix	4	2	2.75	1eq.
	Wahoo	6	3	4	4
	Crossfire	7	4	3.75	3
	Flat Out	9	5	10	5
	Farondole	10.75	6	12	6
	Scamp	15	7	15	7
JOB	Oriole	1.5	1	2.75	1 eq.
	Seayalater	5	2 eq.	2.75	1eq
	Moozie Too	5	2 eq.	6	3
	Shearwater	9	4	8	4
	Firey Dolphin	12	5	13	5
	Flash	14	6	14	6

Note: Race results for the keel boats were not available as the newsletter went to press

HEADS UP FOR PUM FOR DECEMBER

JUNIOR BEACH PARTY

ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME!!!

SATURDAY 28th OF DECEMBER
6:30 - 9:00pm

Dinner and drink provided for only \$5
Lots of fun and games! Pay at the door.

JUNIOR NEWS !!!

ALL THE GREAT NEWS YOU JUST HAVE TO READ ABOUT THE UPCOMING SAILING SEASON AND ALL THE EVENTS!!!

Who's started sailing and who hasn't? Make sure you start soon!!!



Welcome back everyone! Hope you're ready for the great season ahead of you! I'm glad you've all had second thoughts about the colour white and painted your boats! The various colours look great! I hope that everyone's ready for a jam packed season, we've got a new junior committee to assist in decisions about the junior events etc and they're ready to answer any questions you have about the season. We're looking forward to several people to show their faces down at the club namely Andrew Moffat, Joanna, David, Will and Luke Morgan aswell as Timothy and Amelia Ramsden! Where are you guys??? Feel free to show your faces down at the club any time soon!!!

I hope all you older people are ready for a great time, the J. committee have organised a new event: The one, and the onlyDance Party/disco whatever you want to call it! Are you excited yet? You better be, prepare yourself for dancing eating and lots of loud music and sorry it's for 13 - 18 ONLY!!! Sorry little kids you can watch Hercules (Ben Slaters

favourite show) or whatever else is on on a Saturday night! ENJOY!!!!!! Anyway, I think we should all thank Leigh Whiffen for saving the day on the 17th which was heat 2 of the Vice comm. trophy for the Juniors. Luckily the juniors race was cancelled due to

Why do elephants paint the soles of their feet yellow?
So they can hide up side down in bowls of custard.
What lies at the bottom of the sea and whimpers?
A nervous wreck. God thats funny.
How many fishermen does it take to change a light bulb?
5. And you should have seen the light bulb it was THIS big! that was a good joke
HAHAHA HA HAHAHA HA HA

the strong wind warnings. But the seniors still went out and the winds blew up, the rubber duck conked it and if it wasn't for Leighs heroic paddling out to another boat the rubber duck would not have been towed in and saved. So a big thanks to Leigh for his terrific effort.

FROM Kylie





FYC is now on the Web!



Just like the big fancy yacht clubs of the world, the Flinders Yacht Club now has its own Internet Site. For up to date results, pictures, program, and links to other sailing sites around the world see:



<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Field/1919>



(How about this for an ego trip! Eat your heart out Royal Brighton!! - Editor)



DANCE PARTY



Flinders Yacht Club

Saturday 4th January 7:30 - 11:30pm
Supper & drink provided, Extra drinks \$1
13-18 yr olds NO ALCOHOL

ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY

Tickets \$10 each Available from:

James Manners - ph 890 021

Micheal Newton - ph 890 371

Kylie Slater - ph 890 703

Tim Dawson - ph 890 557



Committee gets familiar with a doll!

CPR Course for Club members

Di Ericson organized a first aid course for yacht club members on Saturday 8th of December. A former MICA ambulance driver and current BHP health and safety officer provided the instruction. Topics covered included Hypothermia and CPR.

Participants found the course extremely valuable. A number of potentially life saving techniques were covered. We were also able to discuss the Club's emergency response plan and a number of improvements were suggested.

Consideration is being given to running another session earlier in the new year so that more members can benefit from the training. Notice will be given in a future edition of West Headings



Pete Dawson receiving instruction on the dummy.

Rules for the clubhouse.

We wish to remind all member that the club facilities are open for the enjoyment and use during the year.

There are some rule that go with that opportunity:

1. Club keys are NOT transferable
2. The front gate & compound should remain locked when sailing and upon leaving.

All members may open these areas.

3. The club house may only be opened by a senior member. This member must be in attendance at all times and remains responsible for the club house. This will be the OOD on sailing days.

The rules are required to ensure this beautiful facility and all members property remains safe and secure.

Any contributions to West Headings are welcome. The deadline for contributions, and articles is the first of the month.

The Editor, 30 Cloverdale Ave Toorak, 3142
Phone: 98273127
Fax: Please phone first
E-Mail: clayman@onaustralia.com.au

New Year's Eve Bash



December 31st
7:00

Juke Box, Fireworks and Heaps of Fun

New Year's Eve is always very popular, so numbers are needed.

Make your booking early through:

Sue Slater: 03 9598 3924

059 890 703

Clay Manners: 03 9827 3127

059 890 021